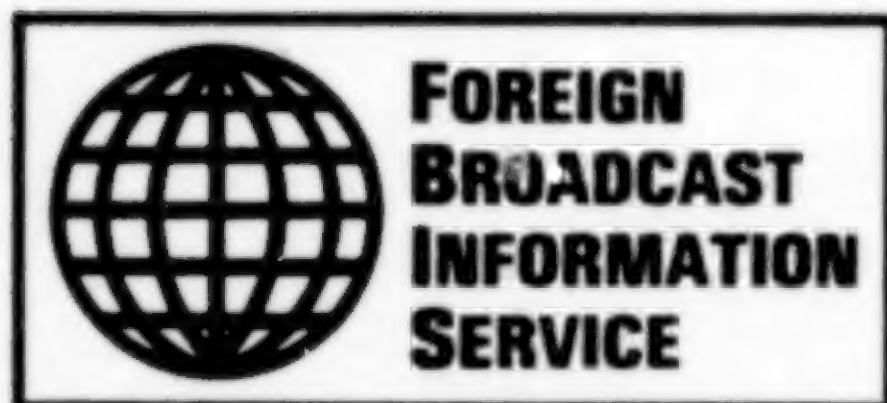




Daily Report

East Asia

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ASEAN Differences on Security Issues Viewed

BK2301014592 Bangkok *THE NATION* in English
23 Jan 92 p A10

[By Kawi Chongkitthawon]

[Text] Singapore—ASEAN is divided into three groups as far as the security issues are concerned. Singapore and Thailand want continued US military presence in the region; the Philippines supports stronger ASEAN cooperation and security, while Indonesia and Malaysia, as always, continue to reject any major power's involvement in the region.

Singapore is the strongest supporter of the US presence and stands to benefit the most, after the American withdrawal from the Philippines. When President George Bush visited Singapore early this month, the island republic agreed to expand the US use of its facilities. Thailand has had enough experience with the US presence and is currently satisfied with the status quo.

The Philippines seeks to form a closer security cooperation among ASEAN members and is looking more towards regional burden sharing since Washington decided to leave its bases there. At this juncture, it is the idea that is to be taken seriously.

Meanwhile, Indonesia's and Malaysia's historical and political preference—their association with the Non-aligned Movement and the developing world—have encouraged those two countries to push for a zone of "peace, freedom and neutrality" (ZOPFAN), without major power interference.

Some diplomats based here believe that there are "commercial benefits" for other ASEAN countries to consider hosting limited US facilities in their countries. As an example, a total of 67 US warships visited Singapore in 1990, spending a total of US\$20 million for repairs and other commercial work.

The problem for ASEAN is how can it incorporate all these divergent positions and form a common security strategy that will serve the region's interests. Another question is whether ASEAN leaders have the political willpower to overcome their narrow security interests and forge a larger regional framework for security cooperation.

Despite the existing differences, ASEAN countries have agreed on one thing: They have to collectively respond to the new global political situation and the departure of US forces from the Philippines this year.

As the first step, ASEAN senior officials have agreed to discuss security matters immediately after the end of the summit meeting. ASEAN summiteers are likely to endorse the idea when they meet next Monday.

Looking back, the move is considered a progress in comparison with the previous summit in Manila. At that time ASEAN was obsessed with the different security perceptions and foreign policies of major powers. They thought their

security future would be determined by the stands taken by major superpowers. However, the demise of the Soviet Union and the end of Cold War have changed all that.

For years, ASEAN has been trying to devise a security plan that would allow them to take control of the security future. A series of steps have been agreed to by ASEAN officials. The end of Cambodian problem has allowed ASEAN to focus on this direction—the revitalization of the 1976 Bali Treaty of Amity and Cooperation which will incorporate Indochina and other non-ASEAN countries.

At the next week's summit, ASEAN leaders will welcome Vietnam and Laos in signing the treaty.

The treaty will provide common grounds for a dialogue on regional security among signatories. Senior ASEAN officials have already made recommendations that the five permanent members of the United Nations be invited to accede to the treaty. Later on, ASEAN will also seek a recognition from the United Nations through an appropriate resolution.

Secondly, another mechanism within the ASEAN framework—the ASEAN Post Ministerial Meeting—can be turned into a region-wide forum for security discussion. It will be a loose consultative committee to take up issues affecting regional peace and stability. At the same time, ASEAN will engage in consultations with non-dialogue partners.

Already, the yet-to-be born forum has been dubbed the APEC for security. APEC is the acronym for Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation.

There will be a session among the ASEAN heads of government on "symbolic" issues such as the concepts of ZOPFAN, and the South East Asia Nuclear Free Zone.

The death of communism in the Soviet Union has rendered obsolete the concept of neutrality. M. R. Sukhumphan Boriphat, director of the Institute of Security and International Studies, thinks ZOPFAN should be dropped. He argued that other countries in Southeast Asia should be brought into discussion to determine the security outlook as well, so that it is not one imposed by ASEAN.

ASEAN senior officials agreed to review ZOPFAN in view of whether it is relevant to ensuring peace in the region.

So far, both Malaysia and Indonesia think ZOPFAN is a good concept and should remain as it is with some adjustments. Former Indonesian foreign minister Mochtar Kusumaadja said ZOPFAN needs changes like "new wine in an old bottle".

There have been some discussions among ASEAN academics and officials on the idea of deleting the word "neutrality" and replacing it with "enterprise" or "nonalignment" that reflects the change in circumstances.

On the idea of making Southeast Asia a non-nuclear area, ASEAN has become very timid. In the draft Singapore declaration, which will be issued at the end of two-day

summit, two similar paragraphs from the 1988 Manila declaration concerning ZOPFAN and the nuclear free zone were pulled out.

At a meeting last week in Kuala Lumpur, organized by Malaysia's Institute of Strategic and International Studies, ASEAN scholars and officials suggested that their heads of government should be committed this time to set a time-frame to sign the non-nuclear agreement.

It remains to be seen how the ASEAN heads of government tackle their common security issues and how relevant the ASEAN framework will continue to be in the post-Cold War world. But one thing is certain: ASEAN diversities make the grouping stronger only when they can be channelled to work for the common good of the region. Without consensus, ASEAN will not be able to deal with the challenges that lies ahead.

ASEAN Officials Review SRV, Lao Membership

*BK2301013192 Bangkok THE NATION in English
23 Jan 92 p A5*

[By Kawi Chongkitthawon]

[Text] Singapore—While ASEAN countries welcome Vietnam's and Laos' signing the ASEAN Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia, they differ on the future of the two Indochinese countries' eventual membership.

"It is not automatic," said a senior Thai official after the joint consultative meeting of economic and political officials, which ended on Tuesday.

He said it would depend on the viability of the economic conditions of Vietnam and Laos.

During Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun's visit to Vietnam recently, he said Vietnam's ASEAN membership would depend on the Indochinese country's market-oriented economic reforms and its eventual economic integration into the region.

This view is widely shared by other ASEAN countries.

Both countries will formally sign the 1976 treaty when ASEAN foreign ministers meet again in Manila in June.

The official said Vietnam and Laos want to be observers to the ASEAN meeting in Manila. During Vietnamese Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet's visit to Kuala Lumpur this week, Kiet sought support from Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammed.

Malaysia has advocated bringing Vietnam into the grouping as soon as possible because of the boost it would give to Vietnam's economy.

Apart from ASEAN countries, Papua New Guinea is the only country to have signed the treaty and has been the regional grouping's only observer. Papua New Guinea has no intention of becoming an ASEAN member, according to diplomats based here.

Malaysia last year invited China and the now defunct Soviet Union to the ASEAN meeting as the host's guests.

Philippine Assistant Foreign Secretary Romauldo Ong lauded the desire of Vietnam and Laos to sign the treaty, which he said will have a positive effect on the region.

Asked how long it would take for the two Indochinese countries to become ASEAN members, he said it would require some time.

An Indonesian official cautioned that ASEAN should not go too fast in their economic cooperation, saying that they have to leave some room for the Indochinese countries to follow and participate.

The official said Vietnam is pushing ahead full steam with its economic reforms, but it will take the impoverished country at least a decade to catch up with the ASEAN mainstream.

Thai Minister Wants AFTA To Benefit Members

*BK2201102792 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English
0944 GMT 22 Jan 92*

[Text] Singapore, Jan 22 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Thailand said Wednesday it hoped that the Singapore ASEAN summit would be able to come up with ways for every member country of the regional association to benefit from the proposed ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA).

Its minister of commerce, Amaret Siln On, said it was neither the style of ASEAN nor of Thailand to insist that all member countries fully accept a proposal by any one member.

"It is not the ASEAN style nor Thailand's style to insist that our neighbours follow what we want," he told reporters on his arrival here to attend the ministerial meetings ahead of the two-day summit beginning on Monday.

He said that although Thailand had proposed AFTA, it was hoped that the meetings here would be able to come up with ways for the concept to benefit every one of the six member countries.

Amaret said it was pertinent for all participating member countries to have a common purpose and to eventually realise the goal.

"This (Singapore summit) is a meeting where ideas can be sought. We are very open and we do not come with pre-conceived ideas," he said.

AFTA is expected to be in place in 15 years, after tariffs for selected goods have been slashed to zero-five per cent by that time through the Common Effective Preferential Tariffs (CEPT) agreement to be signed at this summit.

The CEPT agreement is expected to unlock trade by providing for lower tariffs for goods in the manufacturing and processed food sectors including capital goods, agricultural products and services.

Indonesia Opposes Dropping ZOPFAN Principles

*BK2201101592 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English
0859 GMT 22 Jan 92*

[Text] Singapore, Jan 22 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Indonesia will strongly oppose any suggestion by ASEAN member countries to scrap or change the principles of the zone of peace, freedom and neutrality (ZOPFAN).

Its Foreign Minister Ali Alatas said here Wednesday "I don't think new [words indistinct] interpret ZOPFAN but we have always maintained that it is a flexible blueprint for greater things." It remained a relevant concept for Southeast Asia, he added.

Alatas said, however: "What we do need to do is to look at it in the light of the changed circumstances in the world and see whether or not adaptation need to be made on certain parts."

ASEAN had developed ZOPFAN into a blueprint but it was never really officially presented abroad as it was kept "under wraps" because of the Cambodian conflict and other issues, he added.

He said Indonesia was now proposing "to take take it out of the drawer" and for ASEAN to look at the parts that might need adaptation if there were any proposals for it. He added "What we would certainly oppose is for someone to say let us throw away ZOPFAN. "We think ZOPFAN is very relevant to this part of the world because it has a flexible guideline and set of principles. These remain relevant, even in the new situation."

He said a suggestion by officials of an ASEAN country to supplement ZOPFAN with a larger treaty of amity and co-operation to include members of the United Nations Security Council to increase its scope "shows that there is not a really good understanding of what ZOPFAN is."

He said ZOPFAN should proceed at two levels, one which applied to the Southeast Asian region and the other to the major powers.

The principles and guidelines should apply within the Southeast Asian region and ASEAN had already outlined what the regional or sub-regional powers would do under that treaty.

He added "That is our contribution to regional order but we ask the major powers to do certain things not to interfere...to be here economically rather than to intervene militarily as in Cambodia. They too have to commit themselves to certain principles within ZOPFAN."

Alatas said the situation in Southeast Asia would be "unbalanced" if ZOPFAN was dropped.

Ali Alatas Arrives in Singapore To Push EAEC

*BK2201094992 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English
0752 GMT 22 Jan 92*

[Text] Singapore, Jan 22 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Indonesia said Wednesday its proposals to refine the East Asia Economic Caucus (EAEC) would help move the concept forward towards full realization.

Its Foreign Minister Ali Alatas said Indonesia would go along with principle guidelines on how to move forward as agreed to at the ASEAN economic ministers meeting in Kuala Lumpur last October.

"We are all jointly engaged in the process of refining the concept," he said, adding that Kuala Lumpur had never presented it as a comprehensive blueprint on [word indistinct] take it or leave it basis.

Speaking to newsmen on arrival here to attend the ASEAN foreign ministers meeting Thursday, ahead of the fourth summit of ASEAN heads of government next week, he said the Malaysian proposal, now an ASEAN initiative, would continue to change until it reached its final stage before implementation.

"All members have continually been making proposals since the beginning of the idea. That is a sign how serious we consider this proposal because we could also have taken an indifferent attitude," he added. He said the EAEC was one of the "very important" topics to be discussed at the two-day summit beginning on January 27.

Discussions by ASEAN senior officials, he added, had been going on so that all the implications of the proposal and possible mechanisms for the EAEC to move forward would be fully understood, firstly by ASEAN countries and then by other countries of the region.

"It was a joint decision by all the ASEAN members to discuss the EAEC proposal and to further refine it," he said.

Reiterating Indonesia's commitment to the EAEC concept, Alatas said it had certain ideas but "we are not proposing to move backwards". "Our attitude towards the process is very positive and we hope to contribute towards solving the matter," he added.

ASEAN Ministerial Meeting Begins Talks 23 Jan

*BK2301084492 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English
0342 GMT 23 Jan 92*

[Text] Singapore, Jan 23 (OANA/BERNAMA)—ASEAN Foreign and Economic Ministers, Thursday, began separate talks on a host of matters in preparation for the two-day fourth ASEAN summit which starts on Monday.

The foreign ministers are attending the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting (AMM) which formulates policy guidelines and reviews all decisions.

The ASEAN Economic Ministers Meeting (AEM) will direct economic cooperation.

The ministers will be looking at the drafts and reports prepared by their officials in meetings held over the weekend.

These include the framework agreement for enhancing ASEAN economic cooperation, the Common Effective Preferential Tariffs (CEPT), which will lead to the establishment of an ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) in 15 years, and the Singapore declaration.

Officials said the declaration was expected to contain, among other things, ASEAN's stand on the Uruguay Round of the multilateral trade negotiations of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), and a call to the United Nations to speed up deployment of supervisory forces in Cambodia.

The ministers will come together Friday in the Joint Ministerial Meeting (JMM), a mechanism which facilitates the cross-sectoral coordination of and consultation on ASEAN activities.

Invite UNSC Permanent Members

*BK2301041292 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English
0325 GMT 23 Jan 92*

[Text] Singapore, Jan 23 (OANA/BERNAMA)—ASEAN senior officials have recommended that the grouping invite the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) and other countries to accede to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia, Thai Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin said Thursday.

He said the officials had proposed that the invitation to the big five and the other countries be in the form of "an ASEAN declaration or statement of some sort."

We have officially invited the two Indochinese countries of Laos and Vietnam to accede to the treaty, we welcome them, he told reporters on arrival here to attend the ASEAN ministerial meetings before the fourth ASEAN summit here on Monday.

The five permanent members of the Security Council are Britain, China, France, the United States and the former Soviet Union.

Sarasin said it was a good idea to invite them and the others to accede to the treaty but added that there would be no official invitation as was the case with the two Indochinese countries.

Malaysian Foreign Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, who had arrived earlier, said he expected the applications of Vietnam and Laos to accede to the treaty to be endorsed by the ASEAN foreign ministers at their meeting Thursday, ahead of the summit on Monday.

I don't think we have any problem, he told reporters when asked if the ministers would endorse their senior officials' recommendation that ASEAN accept the applications of the two countries to accede to the treaty.

On whether the treaty should be open to other countries, including those outside the region, he said this could be possible but then there must be agreement on this by all ASEAN member countries.

We still have some Southeast Asian countries which have yet to accede to the treaty, he said referring to the Indochinese states and Myanmar [Burma].

The treaty, signed at the first ASEAN summit in Bali in 1976, provides for regional cooperation in the political, economic, social, technical and other fields.

Papua New Guinea is the only non-ASEAN country that has acceded to the treaty.

Propose Rapid CEPT Implementation

*BK2301043492 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English
0329 GMT 23 Jan 92*

[Text] Singapore, Jan 23 (OANA/BERNAMA)—The proposed Common Effective Preferential Tariffs (CEPT) scheme can be implemented as soon as possible if all parties can agree to its functions and provisions, Malaysian International Trade and Industry Minister Rafidah Aziz said here Thursday.

She said the regional tariff reduction scheme, which will lead to the establishment of an ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) in 15 years, could take off with products in four sectors, namely fertiliser, rubber, pulp and wood.

The CEPT scheme is likely to start on Jan 1 next year, with a provision for those countries which cannot participate initially because of their different stages of economic development to join later—any time between five and eight years from then.

Malaysia could readily accede to the four product sectors, she told reporters on arrival here for the ASEAN economic ministers meeting which precedes the ASEAN summit beginning Monday.

Rafidah said the CEPT scheme must start on a positive note because ASEAN was talking of eventually having a free trade area.

We cannot start a free trade area on the premise that right from day one so many things (products) are to be excluded, she said in an apparent reference to the persistent wrangling over the type of manufactured products to be excluded from and included in the CEPT list.

Under the CEPT, only manufactured products and processed agricultural goods are to be included. The list will exclude services, and capital and agricultural goods.

Rafidah said Malaysia would like to see the CEPT operating with as short an exclusion list as possible.

Optimistic on Resolving EAEC Question

*BK2301074692 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English
0656 GMT 23 Jan 92*

[Text] Singapore, Jan 23 (OANA/BERNAMA)—Thailand, Thursday, expressed optimism that the question of the East Asia Economic Caucus (EAEC) can be resolved positively in the ASEAN way of consensus.

Its Foreign Minister, Asa Sarasin, said "There is no problem now, there is nothing to worry about."

The senior economic officials would deliberate further on the matter Thursday, he told reporters during a break in the meeting of the foreign ministers.

Asa said a solution was being found for the EAEC issue although details of membership and its operational functions were not touched on at the morning meeting of the foreign ministers.

Malaysian International Trade and Industry Minister Rafidah Aziz told reporters Malaysia had presented its case for the EAEC and it was up to the economic officials to work out a solution.

The meeting of the economic ministers ended 90 minutes after it had opened, and Thai sources said the senior economic officials would discuss the differences in approach between Malaysia and Indonesia on the EAEC before presenting the matter to the joint meeting of the ministers Friday.

Officials said the exclusion list of the Common Effective Preferential Tariffs (CEPT) agreement had been agreed to by the economic ministers at their morning meeting.

Asa said the foreign ministers would give their support to the CEPT agreement, which will lead to the establishment of the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) in 15 years.

On the treaty of amity and cooperation, he said the discussions were confined to Southeast Asian countries but ASEAN would welcome other countries which wanted to accede to it.

Suggest EAEC Action Program

*BK2301050192 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English
0336 GMT 23 Jan 92*

[Text] Singapore, Jan 23 (OANA/BERNAMA)—Malaysian Foreign Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi Thursday suggested that ASEAN work out a programme of action to realise the East Asia Economic Caucus (EAEC) proposal.

He said Malaysia had some ideas of the steps that could be taken in this direction but he declined to elaborate, saying that they had to be discussed with the other member countries.

Hopefully, we will come up with a decision on a programme of action. It can be any form of decision, he told reporters on arrival here for the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting (AMM) preceding the fourth ASEAN summit beginning Monday.

The programme of action means that the idea is continually advanced. It will be set on a course that the EAEC will be a reality finally...not just remain an idea on paper, he added.

EAEC was proposed by Malaysia.

Asked if he would discuss further the EAEC with his Indonesian counterpart Ali Alatas who had said that Indonesia was suggesting proposals to refine the idea, Abdullah said he was prepared to listen to what Alatas had to say.

This is a meeting of ASEAN ministers, a meeting of friends... We are not strangers to one another.

It is certainly not ASEAN to leave things unresolved... If we cannot decide and resolve among friends, I don't think we can hope to resolve anything when dealing with others, he said.

He said that although the EAEC proposal was still being discussed, he did not believe that "anyone wants to go back on the principles of what EAEC stands for".

Asked if Malaysia would be disappointed if the proposal did not get off the ground after the summit, he said: If it doesn't progress, we would be disappointed, certainly.

Meanwhile, Thai Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin said Thailand had given its support for the EAEC as a loose consultative forum.

I don't see anything wrong with that but we hope that the issue will be resolved in a few days from now, he added.

Agree on Formula for EAEC

*BK2301093092 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English
0847 GMT 23 Jan 92*

[Text] Singapore, Jan 23 (OANA/BERNAMA)—ASEAN foreign ministers have come up with a formula that they hope would help clear the way towards formation of the East Asia Economic Caucus (EAEC).

Malaysian Foreign Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said here Thursday that the formula would be presented to the ASEAN heads of government at their fourth summit here next week.

We have been able to thrash out all the issues. We have also found a formula which we will bring to the summit for the six ASEAN leaders to address, he told reporters.

Abdullah earlier attended the ASEAN ministerial meeting (AMM) which met for four hours to prepare for the two-day fourth ASEAN summit beginning here on Monday. He declined to reveal what the formula contained but said the meeting thrashed out various issues apart from the EAEC.

All the ministers participated and gave their views during the meeting which he described as "very smooth."

Abdullah also declined to reveal the contents of the programme of action which would be submitted to the heads of government for consideration and endorsement. He said the foreign ministers agreed to let the ASEAN economic ministers, who also met Thursday, to decide on issues pertaining to economic cooperation when they meet Friday for their joint ministerial meeting.

At their meeting, the foreign ministers, who mainly deal with the political issues, were unanimous in their desire to see more Asian countries accede to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation.

Vietnam and Laos have applied to accede to the treaty. Signed in Bali in 1976, it provides for regional cooperation in the political, economic, social, technical, and other fields.

Abdullah said on arrival here Wednesday that he expected the applications by the two Indochinese countries to be endorsed at the summit here.

Japan

Miyazawa Plans To Meet With Yeltsin 31 Jan

OW2301143092 Tokyo KYODO in English 1421 GMT
23 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 23 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa will meet Russian President Boris Yeltsin for the first Japan-Russia summit talks on January 31 in New York, government sources said Thursday.

The sources said the specific schedule of the talks is being arranged between the two countries but added that the meeting is expected to be private.

Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe may also hold talks with Yeltsin prior to an international conference on Middle East peace set for January 28 and 29 in Moscow, a senior ministry official said.

Both Miyazawa and Yeltsin are slated to visit New York to attend a summit meeting of the 15 countries on the United Nations Security Council, which is to be held on January 31.

The Japanese prime minister is likely to press Yeltsin to make efforts to resolve the territorial dispute over four islands near the Russian island of Sakhalin and Japan's northernmost main island of Hokkaido, and to resume bilateral negotiations on signing a Russo-Japanese peace treaty, the sources said.

The disputed islands—Kunashiri, Etorofu, Shikotan, and the Habomai islets—were seized from Japan by the Soviet Red Army at the end of World War II.

Tokyo hopes Yeltsin will clarify his statement of November 1991 in which he called for an early settlement to the decades-long territorial dispute "with law and justice."

In his visit to Japan in January 1990, Yeltsin floated a five-phase proposal to solve the long-standing problem.

The proposal calls for first acknowledging the existence of the dispute, then creating a free economic zone and demilitarizing the four islands, concluding a peace treaty with Japan and leaving the solution of the islands' sovereignty to the next generation of the two countries.

The meeting between Miyazawa and Yeltsin is also expected to cover discussions on international affairs, including nuclear weapons and arms control, the sources said.

The prime minister may also express his strong support for Russia to shift to a market-oriented economy and for its democratization, while inviting Yeltsin to visit Japan during 1992, they said.

Tokyo has so far extended 1 billion yen in food and medical assistance to the Russian Far East. It has also expressed its intention to grant another 6.5 billion yen.

Foreign Minister Watanabe may meet Monday for separate bilateral talks with Yeltsin and Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev in Moscow, a senior Foreign Ministry official said.

The agenda would include setting a date for a resumption of working-level bilateral talks on the peace treaty, the official said.

During his stay in Moscow, he also hopes to meet Rhuslan Khasbulatov, the Russian parliament speaker.

In a series of talks with Russian officials, Watanabe is expected to press the Russians to take necessary measures so that Tokyo can implement the 100 million dollars in postponed emergency food and medical assistance from the Export-Import Bank of Japan, which was decided on at the end of 1990, the official said.

In an opening speech at the Middle East peace conference, Watanabe is scheduled to make a proposal on sea pollution in the Gulf of Aqaba.

Diplomatic sources said Watanabe also may attend ceremonies in Moscow in which Japanese diplomats and representatives of some former Soviet republics will exchange notes on establishing diplomatic ties.

Miyazawa, Major To Talk During UNSC Meeting

OW2301002892 Tokyo KYODO in English 2355 GMT
22 Jan 92

[Text] Washington, Jan. 22 (KYODO)—Prime Ministers Kiichi Miyazawa of Japan and John Major of Britain will meet in New York next week at the time of a summit meeting of the member countries of the United Nations Security Council, Japanese officials said Wednesday.

Japanese Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe and British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd confirmed the snap Japanese-British summit during their talks at the U.S. State Department, site of an international conference on aid to the former Soviet republics, the officials said.

Watanabe expressed Japan's regret over the postponement of Major's trip to Japan, slated for this month, the officials said.

Hurd proposed a summit meeting between the leaders of Japan and the 12-nation European Community (EC).

Watanabe responded that Japan-EC dialogue is important for many reasons, including dispelling fears in Southeast Asia about a potential protectionist European union, the officials said.

Watanabe Dismisses Sakurachi Remarks on U.S.

OW2301023592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0223 GMT
23 Jan 92

[Text] Washington, Jan. 22 (KYODO)—Japanese Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe gave his own view of

American workers in a brief meeting with U.S. President George Bush on Wednesday, dismissing negative comments made by a former foreign minister as a minority opinion in Japan.

At the White House meeting, Japanese officials said, Watanabe tried to defuse a controversy over the statement by House of Representatives Speaker Yoshio Sakurauchi that U.S. workers are lazy and this erodes their country's industrial competitiveness.

"My opinion is different (from Sakurauchi's). His view does not reflect the mainstream view among the Japanese," Watanabe was quoted by Japanese officials as telling Bush.

The officials said Bush welcomed the Japanese Government's prompt action to deal with two episodes within 48 hours, alluding to Sakurauchi's comment and a remark by Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa that figures mentioned in a recent automotive trade pact with the U.S. are "a target rather than a firm promise."

Bush also conveyed his appreciation for Japan's hospitality during his trip to Tokyo earlier this month, the officials told reporters, adding that the President said he has fully recovered from the ailment that caused his collapse at an official dinner.

Watanabe also met separately with Foreign Ministers Gianni De Michelis of Italy, Yi Sang-ok of South Korea, and Barbara Jean McDougall of Canada at the State Department, where they were attending an international conference on aid to the former Soviet republics.

Watanabe told De Michelis and Yi that Japan cannot offer large-scale economic aid to Russia until a territorial dispute over four Russian-held islands off Hokkaido, Japan's northernmost main island, is resolved, officials said.

A Japanese official quoted De Michelis as telling Watanabe, "it is historically and politically obvious that the four islands belong to Japan."

Watanabe will return home Friday morning.

U.S. Congress Trade Retaliation Bills Noted

OW2301052792 Tokyo KYODO in English 0515 GMT 23 Jan 92

[Text] Washington, Jan. 22 (KYODO)—Some 30 members of the U.S. House of Representatives presented bills Wednesday providing for retaliation against Japan unless it eliminates its 41 billion dollar trade surplus with the United States within the next five years.

Under the bills, Japan would have to reduce its trade surplus with the U.S. by an annual 20 percent over the next five years or face restrictions on the volume of its automobile exports to the U.S.

The administration of President George Bush has already expressed its intention to veto the bills due to their retaliatory nature.

Majority Leader Richard Gephardt, a Democrat from Missouri, in submitting the proposals, sharply criticized Bush's policy toward Japan.

There are fears that trade between the U.S. and Japan will be linked to the upcoming U.S. presidential elections and become a major issue within Congress, observers said.

Gephardt assailed Japan for what he said was its attempt to back off from a plan to step up procurements of U.S. auto parts announced during Bush's trip to Tokyo earlier this month.

He asserted that Japan will not substantially open up its markets unless threatened with retaliatory measures.

Bush said the legislation is pure protectionism and declared his intention to exercise his veto power if it is passed by Congress.

Kato Recalls U.S. Aid to 'War-Ravaged' Nation

OW2301082192 Tokyo KYODO in English 0659 GMT 23 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 23 KYODO—The government's chief spokesman expressed confidence Thursday that Japan can achieve its goal of 3.5 percent annual economic growth and called for cooperation from opposition parties in passing the budget.

The official target for inflation-adjusted growth in fiscal 1992 starting in April, which was included in joint statements reached with U.S. President George Bush earlier this month, has been criticized as overly optimistic by private economists.

"The world is watching whether we can reach the 3.5 percent growth rate," Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato said. "I think we can sufficiently achieve this."

Speaking to a business luncheon at a Tokyo hotel, Kato said he hopes deliberations in the House of Representatives budget committee would "go smoothly" and warned that Japan would invite international criticism if it fails to put on a strong economic performance.

But analysts predict that budget debate will be sidetracked by a widening scandal in which Fumio Abe, a former key member of Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's faction, was arrested on suspicion of receiving 80 million yen in bribes.

The government's proposed budget includes stimulative measures, such as a 4.5 percent increase in public works spending and a 10.9 percent increase in investment and loans.

In response to criticism that Miyazawa made excessive concessions to the United States during the Bush visit, Kato urged his audience to remember U.S. assistance to war-ravaged Japan after World War II.

Miyazawa has used a similar line in urging help and understanding for the U.S., which he depicted as a friend in need.

"There are probably a lot of you who wonder if we really have to cooperate so much—that we should have said more forcibly that if American cars had steering wheels on the right they would sell more," Kato said. "That if (auto) parts are of good quality, anyone would buy them without politicians telling them to do so."

Recalling U.S. generosity that enabled Japan to rebuild after the war, Kato said, "even if there are some areas that are not quite logical, I think it makes sense to cooperate."

The world needs a leader and the U.S. is the only country that can fill the role, Kato said.

Hills Hopes for U.S. Access to Paper Market

*OW2301012392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0050 GMT
23 Jan 92*

[Text] Washington, Jan. 22 (KYODO)—U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills expressed the hope Wednesday that Japan would fully open up its 55 billion dollar market in paper products.

The Japanese market offers "a real opportunity" for American companies, she said in an interview with Cable News Network (CNN).

Asked about alleged mutual animosities in the U.S. and Japan, Hills said she is confident "reason will prevail."

Stressing that exports play a major role in the growth of the American economy, she warned against protectionist sentiments everywhere.

Hills defended her decision not to accompany President George Bush on his Asian trade mission earlier this month, saying she sent her "talented" deputy in her place.

Firm To Receive 29 Percent of U.S. Drug Firm

*OW2301004892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0014 GMT
23 Jan 92*

[Text] New York, Jan. 22 (KYODO)—Roberts Pharmaceutical Corp. said Wednesday it has signed an agreement with Yamanouchi Pharmaceutical Co. to give the major Japanese drug concern a 29 percent stake in the U.S. firm.

Under the agreement, Yamanouchi will purchase through its U.S. subsidiary four million newly issued shares of Roberts' common stock for about 95 million dollars, the Eatontown, New Jersey-based company said.

The stock purchase will give Yamanouchi two seats on Roberts' board, the company said.

Pending final approval by Roberts' shareholders and regulatory authorities, the transaction is expected to be concluded in March, it said.

German Business Leader on Auto Trade With U.S.

*OW2301122992 Tokyo KYODO in English 1213 GMT
23 Jan 92*

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 23 KYODO—The visiting president of the German Chamber of Industry and Commerce on Thursday criticized Japan's agreement on automobile trade with the United States as contrary to the principles of free world trade.

"It cannot be acceptable that Japan gives better trade conditions to the United States than to European countries," said Hans Peter Stihl, referring to the recent Japanese accord with the U.S. on increasing imports of American cars and car parts.

"It contradicts the principles of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT)," he said.

Germany, however, would not add its voice to other European Community calls for similar treatment, because it supports the concept of free trade, Stihl added.

Asked about Germany's hope for more investment from Japan, he said, "there is some misunderstanding in Japan that German companies will monopolize the profitable projects in Germany at the expense of foreign companies. But it is not true."

Diet Orders Two GM Buicks for Official Use

*OW2301104392 Tokyo KYODO in English 1027 GMT
23 Jan 92*

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 23 KYODO—In an apparent show of support for the action plan accord between Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and U.S. President George Bush, the House of Representatives on Thursday ordered two American automobiles for use as official limousines.

The decision comes hot on the heels of House Speaker Yoshio Sakurachi's comment over the weekend that American workers are lazy and unproductive.

House Rules and Administration Committee Chairman Keisuke Nakanishi said he has instructed the house secretariat to purchase two 3,800 cc Buick Park Avenue automobiles produced by General Motors Corp.

Nakanishi said he has accepted a suggestion by Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) Secretary General Tamisuke Watanuki, who urged the Diet to purchase U.S.-made cars.

At a meeting of the LDP's deputy secretaries general Tuesday, Watanuki suggested the lower house purchase American cars as a show of support for the Action Plan agreement reached during Bush's four-day visit to Japan on January 7-10.

It is the first time since the development of the Japanese auto industry that U.S. cars will be purchased for official use.

The two Buick automobiles have been ordered as part of 17 replacements scheduled to be purchased at the end of the current fiscal year through March 31 for the lower house's fleet of 164 official limousines.

Nakanishi said Thursday one of the limousines would likely be used by Watanuki and the other by himself.

Osaka Business Leader Views Decision on NWA

OW2301131892 Tokyo KYODO in English 1249 GMT 23 Jan 92

[Text] Osaka, Jan. 23 KYODO—Osaka business leader Keizo Saji on Thursday criticized the Transport Ministry's decision to allow Northwest Airlines (NWA) to continue flying the Osaka-Sydney route for flights originating in New York, despite the U.S. carrier's breaching of flight conditions.

The ministry said Wednesday it will extend permission for three months for NWA to operate New York-Sydney flights via Osaka.

Saji, chairman of the Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry, told reporters that the ministry's policies could prevent other airlines from flying to and from the Kansai International Airport which is scheduled to open in 1994 on a man-made island in Osaka Bay.

Saji said the ministry should implement its civil aviation policies from a "more global perspective."

The ministry last October allowed NWA to extend its New York-Osaka flights to Sydney on condition that passengers and cargo on the Osaka-Sydney leg were less than 50 percent of the load.

But according to data compiled by the end of December, passengers on this leg were found to account for more than 95 percent of seats.

The ministry, consulting with its U.S. counterpart, allowed NWA to continue flying the route as the United States pledged to warn the airline.

Firm Discourages Used-Tractor Export to U.S.

OW2301084192 Tokyo KYODO in English 0821 GMT 23 Jan 92

[Text] Osaka, Jan. 23 KYODO—Kubota Corp. has requested exporters and domestic sales companies to terminate exports of used tractors to the United States because of a lack of a rollover protection structure to safeguard drivers from injuries, a company official said Thursday.

The used tractors have been found to roll over when driving up hills and pin drivers underneath, the official said.

In addition, the possibility of being held responsible for damages in case of accidents under U.S. product liability laws has persuaded the company to stop exports, he said.

The company will place advertisements in U.S. newspapers in mid-February to warn users of the potential hazards of the tractors, he said.

The tractors were originally built to operate mainly in Japanese rice paddies and not in the U.S. farmland environment, he said.

Kubota has been exporting used tractors to the U.S. at one-fifth the price of new machines, the official said.

Toyama Prefecture Sends Delegation to ROK

OW2201075992 Tokyo KYODO in English 0719 GMT 22 Jan 92

[Text] Toyama, Jan. 22 KYODO—A 20-member delegation from Toyama Prefecture left for South Korea on Wednesday in a bid to open a flight between the prefectural capital of Toyama and Seoul, officials said.

The delegation, headed by Gov. Yutaka Nakaoki, will visit South Korean transportation authorities, Korean Air, and travel agents.

They will also hold a "Toyama Seminar" to which about 130 South Korean Government officials and economic leaders have been invited. The seminar will feature a video of sightseeing spots in the prefecture.

Four ROK Men Deported for Working Illegally

OW2201105392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0845 GMT 22 Jan 92

[Text] Fukuoka, Jan. 22 KYODO—The Fukuoka Immigration Bureau on Wednesday deported four South Korean men for working illegally in Nagasaki Prefecture, western Kyushu, immigration officials said.

The officials said the four men entered Japan with tourist visas, but were working as masons pasting stone tiles in a swimming pool at a large resort facility now under construction in Sasebo, Nagasaki Prefecture.

A construction company in Nagasaki allegedly paid them 18,000 yen daily and also covered expenses for food, housing, and their voyage from South Korea, the officials said.

Round of Talks With DPRK Planned 30-31 Jan

OW2301140492 Tokyo KYODO in English 1340 GMT 23 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 23 KYODO—Japan and North Korea will hold the sixth round of normalization talks in Beijing on January 30 and 31, Foreign Ministry sources said Thursday.

During the previous round on November 18-20, Japan and North Korea remained apart over Tokyo's calls for North Korea to accept international inspections of its nuclear facilities.

Tokyo To Apologize To DPRK for Comfort Women

OW2301110592 Tokyo KYODO in English 1055 GMT
23 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 23 KYODO—Japan will apologize to North Korea over the tens of thousands of Korean women it forced to provide sex for Japanese soldiers during World War II, Foreign Ministry officials said Thursday.

The officials said Japan will make the apology at the sixth round of normalization talks with North Korea planned for late January in Beijing.

The Japanese delegation to the Tokyo-Pyongyang talks will make an apology similar to that expressed by Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa during his visit to South Korea last week, the officials said.

It will also tell Pyongyang that Japan intends to probe the truth on issues concerning the so-called "comfort women," they said.

On Monday, the (North) Korean workers party newspaper NODONG SINMUN urged Japan to "sincerely apologize with a sense of guilt" for the "unheard-of crimes" it committed and to square its account with the past.

Some 10,000 to 200,000 women, mostly from Korea, then under Japanese rule, were conscripted to work in Japanese military brothels before and during World War II.

The exact date of the sixth round of Tokyo-Pyongyang talks has not yet been set.

Korea To Press for Comfort Women Compensation

OW2301093192 Tokyo KYODO in English 0845 GMT
23 JAN 92

["New Focus" feature by Cayman Kim]

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 23 KYODO—The emotional issue of Korean women forced into prostitution by wartime Japan, revived before Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa visited Seoul last week, is spiraling into a diplomatic row as Seoul seeks compensation from Tokyo.

The No Tae-u administration has decided to formally demand that Japan compensate tens of thousands of Korean women forced to provide sex for Japanese soldiers during World War II, in a turnaround from its hitherto lukewarm position.

"The government will demand that Japan determine the whole truth about the wartime comfort women, make due compensation and describe its atrocities in history

books for Japanese students," said Shim Dae-pyong, chief policy coordinator at the prime minister's office.

The central government and local administrations will investigate the matter. The Korea National Red Cross and other civic organizations will join the government effort and collect information on the women, officials said.

A task force of officials from 13 agencies, including the Foreign and Home Ministries, will deal with the issue. It will be supported by an advisory group of scholars and leaders of social welfare associations.

"All the situation has changed now with new evidence found in Korea and Japan. Our specific plans for the solution to the question will be finalized in another meeting Friday," Shim said Thursday.

Seoul's measures seem designed to take the upper hand in negotiating terms of an action program which No and Miyazawa agreed on last week as a guide for settling economic problems between their countries, analysts said.

Newly released evidence showing an estimated 100,000-200,000 "comfort women" were mobilized nationwide, including 12-year-old primary school pupils, stirred anti-Japanese sentiment across the country.

The news media was awash with related reports in the days before Miyazawa's January 16-18 visit.

The No administration, battling a business downturn and sluggish exports, focused on its economic agenda during the Miyazawa visit and tried to calm the protests.

The administration called for an apology but did not seek compensation because of the 1965 treaty normalizing relations with Japan, which settled the issue of Japanese reparations to Korea.

South Korea since has turned tough on the compensation issue because the No-Miyazawa meetings did not bring forth any solutions to huge trade and technological gaps between the two countries.

Miyazawa did not offer immediate answers to No's requests for more imports and technical transfers and only agreed to further negotiations. The Korean media declared the two rounds of talks between Miyazawa and No were fruitless.

A front-page story in the CHUNGANG ILBO newspaper last Friday was headlined "nothing gained. Miyazawa rejects No's economic requests."

The government's reaction also appears somewhat emotional.

The Education Ministry ordered school authorities to check registers to find the names of students drafted into prostitution, in an about-face from its earlier reluctance to hunt for victims because doing so might violate their privacy.

Education Minister Yun Hyong-sop said Tuesday that South Korean history books would be revised to contain "more detailed, graphic" descriptions of Japanese wrongs during its colonization of Korea. "We had been very cautious in writing Japanese atrocities in fear of increasing anti-Japanese feelings among our students."

Official history books for high school students briefly mention the issue of comfort women by saying "some women fell prey to the Japanese Imperial Army during wartime."

Yun stressed that his ministry's steps are not retaliation for what Koreans see as distortions in Japan's history books that disguise Japanese actions during its 1910-1945 colonization of Korea.

The announcement of greater detail in the history books, however, came a day after chief Japanese Government spokesman Koichi Kato said Korean history books fuel anti-Japanese sentiment.

Former lawmaker Yi Yong-taek, who presented a petition to the United Nations Human Rights Commission last month seeking action against Japan for violating the human rights of the comfort women, said Japan should give full reparations, not just an apology.

The 1965 treaty does not cover any reparations for the women, hunted by Japanese officials as sex tools for their soldiers and thereafter trapped in a bitter life. The question will not be settled without due compensation for their physical and psychological pain," he said.

Kim Chong-pil, a ruling party leader who negotiated the 1965 treaty as a special envoy of then President Park Chung-hee, said recently that the negotiators did not bring up the matter as it was not a widely known issue at the time.

Turkmenia Establishes Preliminary Tokyo Office

OW2001091692 Tokyo KYODO in English 0817 GMT 20 JAN 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 20 KYODO—Turkmenia, one of the 12 former Soviet republics, has set up a preliminary representative office in Tokyo, Japanese officials said Monday.

Turkmenia intends to start full operations at the office once diplomatic relations are formally established with Japan.

Russia is the only member of the 11-republic Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) that has formed official diplomatic links with Japan.

Russian Firm Proposes Meat Packing Venture

OW2301125092 Tokyo KYODO in English 1228 GMT 23 Jan 92

[Text] Nagoya, Jan. 23 KYODO—Fujichiku, a Nagoya-based meat processor, said on Thursday it has received a

proposal from the Russian trading company, Concern Complex, for an early construction of a joint packing plant in Vladivostok.

The Russian firm proposed that the projected plant should manufacture mainly fish sausage and also process other types of meat.

Fujichiku officials said the possibility of their firm and other Japanese meat packers taking part jointly in the project will be studied.

The officials said Fujichiku has agreed to provide technical training to Russian personnel by way of economic cooperation.

Nissan Diesel, Komatsu Receive Russian Order

OW2201133792 Tokyo KYODO in English 1247 GMT 22 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 22 KYODO—Nissan Diesel Motor Co. said Wednesday it and Komatsu Ltd., have jointly received a 500 million yen order for 50 trucks from Russia.

Takuro Endo, president of Nissan Diesel, told reporters the former Soviet republic ordered trailer-type trucks with bodies made by Nissan Diesel and 11045 cc Komatsu engines.

Nissan diesel will receive 400 million yen and Komatsu 100 million yen for the trucks, which are to be used for log transportation.

The two companies have shipped some 9,000 large-capacity trucks to Russia since 1958, according to Nissan Diesel.

Submarine Cable Project Discussed With Russia

OW2301134492 Tokyo KYODO in English 1330 GMT 23 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 23 KYODO—Japanese telecommunications giant KDD and counterparts from Russia, South Korea, and Denmark have held their first meeting on the proposed construction of a Japan-Russia optical fiber submarine cable system, KDD officials said Thursday.

Participants from five companies—KDD (Kokusai Den-shin Denwa Co.), Russia's Sovtelecom, South Korea's Korea Telecom, and Denmark's Telecom Denmark and Great Northern—exchanged opinions at the meeting last week on broad aspects on the project's feasibility, the KDD officials said.

Discussions included location, capacity, future demand for the cable system, and its construction budget.

The second such meeting is scheduled to be held in March in Seoul, the officials said.

The project has been proposed in view of increasing demand for telecommunication links between Asia-Pacific countries and the former Soviet republics.

An 890-kilometer analog telecom cable with 120 circuits laid in 1969 runs between Naoetsu, Niigata Prefecture, and Nakhodka in Russia's Far East. But its capacity is far short of the increasing demand, the officials said.

Another project envisages installation of an optical fiber cable between Denmark and Moscow. Actual construction will start shortly with completion planned for March 1993, they said.

If the proposed Japan-Russia cable under the Sea of Japan materializes, a transcontinental cable may be proposed to connect the Denmark-Moscow and Japan-Russia cables.

India Urges Boost in Japanese Trade Insurance

OW2201075492 Tokyo KYODO in English 0720 GMT 22 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 22 KYODO—Visiting Indian External Affairs Minister Madyhavsinh Solanki on Wednesday asked Japan to broaden its trade insurance coverage for Japanese exports to and investments in India.

In a meeting with International Trade and Industry Minister Kozo Watanabe, Solanki called on Japan to be more flexible in extending trade insurance to India-related projects, a ministry official said.

Watanabe responded positively, saying Japan is ready to provide financial support for projects if they are credible enough.

New Delhi, confronted with a severe foreign exchange shortage, last July introduced a radical economic reform package, which, among other things, allows foreign investors to own a majority stake in joint ventures there.

Mazda To Establish New Network in Hong Kong

OW2101134492 Tokyo KYODO in English 1304 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 21 KYODO—Mazda Motor Corp. will set up its second sales network in Hong Kong aiming at marketing luxury models, officials announced Tuesday.

The "Eunos" network will begin operations this April, selling "Eunos Presso" coupes and the "Eus 500" sedans. Officials said other luxury models will be introduced later.

Mazda initially hopes to sell a total of 500 vehicles per annum.

The Hong Kong auto mart is estimated at 50,000 vehicles per year, of which Mazda accounted for about 5,000 units in 1991.

IBCA Lowers Nomura Firm's Securities Rating

OW2301012292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0011 GMT 23 Jan 92

[Text] London, Jan. 22 (KYODO)—The long-term credit rating of Nomura Securities Co., the largest of the "big four" Japanese securities companies, has been lowered from double a plus, the second-highest rating, to double a, the European credit rating agency IBCA announced Wednesday.

IBCA said its credit downgrading reflected various negative factors which Nomura now faces.

Nomura is experiencing a severe short-term deterioration in profitability and the downgrading was prompted by the weak conditions of the Japanese securities market, the prospect of greater competition from other Japanese financial institutions in some areas of the domestic securities business, and damage to Nomura's reputation and some weakening of its influential position following the Japanese financial scandals, IBCA said.

The agency added, however, that "in spite of its current poor profitability, Nomura's capital base remains massive and its financial position strong."

Despite the current weakness in the Japanese securities market, "the agency is not planning to put other Japanese security companies, on watch for a possible downgrading" a spokesman for IBCA said.

Export Credit Cooperation Agreed With Sweden

OW2101100892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0906 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 21 KYODO—The Export-Import Bank of Japan said Tuesday it has agreed with the Swedish Export Credit Corp. (SEK) to cooperate in promoting Swedish exports to Japan.

The government-financed bank said the agreement also calls for both institutions to help enhance business cooperation between Japanese and Swedish firms in third countries.

The agreement will be signed later Tuesday at SEK's headquarters in Stockholm.

SEK, 50 percent owned by the Swedish Government, was established in 1962 to provide credits to Swedish corporations to help them promote exports and commercial transactions.

The agreement will enhance economic cooperation between the two countries, the Japanese bank said.

Norwegian Official Urges Conservation Steps

OW2301015592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0118 GMT 23 Jan 92

[Text] Oslo, Jan. 22 (KYODO)—Norwegian Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland called on Japan on Wednesday to take more positive steps to protect the global environment.

Brundtland, who will arrive in Japan on Sunday for a four-day official working visit, met with Japanese reporters at her official residence. She is scheduled to meet Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko and hold talks with Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa.

Brundtland said Japan is expected to play an international role in conserving the global environment and expand its financial assistance to international organizations trying to solve environmental problems.

The prime minister also said that Norway will ask more Japanese companies to invest in her country.

Regarding a recent announcement that Norway will begin scientific whaling this summer, Brundtland said such hunting is necessary to prove scientifically to the International Whaling Commission (IWC) that whale stocks have grown.

She also said Norway expects the IWC to become a good organization for whaling countries, too, and that the country will not follow Iceland, which has announced a decision to leave the commission on June 30.

Net ODA To Rise 11.1 Percent in Fiscal 1992

OW2101122692 Tokyo KYODO in English 1118 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 21 KYODO—Japan's net disbursement of Official Development Assistance (ODA) will total 1,699 billion yen in fiscal 1992 starting in April, up 11.1 percent from the previous fiscal year, the Foreign Ministry said Tuesday.

The increase marks the first double-digit growth since fiscal 1984.

Out of the fiscal 1992 budget, 952.2 billion yen has been allocated for ODA from general expenditures, a 7.8 percent rise from the year before.

Bilateral grants as well as contributions and funds provided to international organizations for their capital replenishment will jump 21.0 percent to 903.1 billion yen and loans will edge up 1.9 percent to 967.8 billion for a total of 1,870.9 billion yen, up 10.3 percent from fiscal 1991.

Of this figure, loans to be repaid in the year are subtracted to arrive at the net figure of 1,699 billion yen.

No Policy 'Plan' To Redress Trade Surplus

OW2301031592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0301 GMT 23 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 23 (KYODO)—Japan does not plan to introduce new policies aimed at curbing its trade surplus, which surged 50 percent last year over the previous year, the top government spokesman said Thursday.

"The numbers were expected, and we will continue with our plans to expand domestic demand and other policies launched last year," Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato told a news conference.

According to statistics released Tuesday by the Finance Ministry, Japan's global trade surplus reached 78.2 billion dollars last year, its third-highest level ever.

LDP Legislator Cited on Rice Tariffication

OW2201051492 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1233 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Statement by Tomio Yamamoto, chairman of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party's Comprehensive Agriculture Policy Research Council, taken from an "interview" with an unidentified NHK reporter in Tokyo; date not given; from the "NHK News 21" program—recorded]

[Text] Some people argue that if 700-percent tariffs are imposed on rice imports and then are gradually lowered, following the acceptance of tariffication on rice, this would cause little damage to Japanese agriculture and rice farmers. Certainly, tariffication might be one of the government's options. Nevertheless, once Japan accepts tariffication it cannot claim that 700 percent is too low and then ask to raise the tariffs to 750 percent. The tariffs will be gradually lowered, ultimately to zero. This zero figure means that Japanese-grown rice and American-grown rice will compete with each other and be sold on equal terms within the Japanese market. Japanese rice will never be able to compete with American rice.

Ministry Considers Rules for Foreign Trainees

OW2301133792 Tokyo KYODO in English 1316 GMT 23 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 23 KYODO—The Labor Ministry is planning to set up a task force to look into the setting up of a new scheme for foreign trainees, officials said Thursday.

The new scheme would allow a maximum stay of two years for all trainees, with nine months of that period devoted to lectures and practical training, followed by 15 months of job experience at guaranteed Japanese pay rates.

The ministry said it is proposing making the return of the trainees to their own countries the responsibility of the employers.

The ministry is also considering having corporations contribute to a fund for the cost of trainees' welfare and health as well as the return of the trainees to their own countries.

The ministry said work areas would include "publicly appraised skills requiring certification and whose acquisition would require some time," but the ministry appears reluctant to admit unskilled workers under the scheme.

The aim of the scheme would be to "transfer technology" and the ministry insists it would not be designed to alleviate a labor shortage in Japan.

The ministry plans to consult with other interested ministries and agencies and produce its final recommendations by the end of March.

Hiraiwa: Electoral System Must Be Reformed

*OW2301112492 Tokyo KYODO in English 1106 GMT
23 Jan 92*

[Text] Osaka, Jan. 23 KYODO—Japanese business leader Gaishi Hiraiwa said Thursday political reforms should be achieved through a revision of the Japanese electoral system as well as tightened controls on political funds.

The chairman of the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren) expressed opposition to a proposal that priority be given to tightening controls on political funds to sever the links between politics and money.

He was commenting on the ruling Liberal Democratic Party's moves to promote political reforms following a cash-for-favors scandal that led to the arrest of one of Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's close allies.

Hiraiwa did not say how the election system should be revised but said just tightening political fund controls would bring up the question of how money should be raised in the present system of medium-size constituencies.

He said political reforms should be pursued in "all aspects."

On current economic trends, Hiraiwa acknowledged the economy is in an adjustment stage but said no further cut in the official discount rate is necessary at this point.

The Bank of Japan last cut the key rate by 0.5 percentage point to 4.5 percent per annum December 30.

Rate Cut To Boost Sagging Share Prices Opposed

*OW2101085992 Tokyo KYODO in English 0304 GMT
21 Jan 92*

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 21 KYODO—The Director General of the Economic Planning Agency (EPA) on Tuesday

indicated that he does not support a further cut in the official discount rate as a means of propping up the ailing stock market.

The slump in stock prices seems to be clouding the business outlook of corporate managers, Takeshi Noda said at a press conference following a cabinet meeting.

But industry should be aware of the fact that the current movements in share price are unusual and do not accurately reflect the actual state of the Japanese economy.

A reduction in interest rates should not be linked to the conditions of the stock market, he said.

Last December 30, the Bank of Japan trimmed the official discount rate, its key lending rate, by 0.5 percentage point to 4.5 percent in an attempt to stimulate the slowing economy.

EPA Official Pledges To Push 5-Year Program

*OW2101074792 Tokyo KYODO in English 0353 GMT
21 Jan 92*

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 21 KYODO—The newly appointed Vice Minister of the Economic Planning Agency (EPA) said Tuesday he will lead EPA efforts to work out a new five-year national economic management program on a priority basis.

Shunji Fukimbara, meeting the press on being appointed to his post, also said one of the main themes of the program will be "revitalization" of regional economies through the decentralization of Tokyo.

He also said the EPA will work out appropriate measures to cope with current economic trends.

The EPA will also study the issue of product liability—a manufacturer's responsibility for any damage, loss, or injury caused by its products—from the perspective of consumers, Fukimbara said.

Mieno Says Bank of Japan Watching Stock Prices

*OW2201080992 Tokyo KYODO in English 0642 GMT
22 Jan 92*

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 22 KYODO—Bank of Japan Governor Yasushi Mieno said Wednesday the central bank is keeping a close eye on stock price movements following their continued slump.

Mieno, speaking at a regular press conference, said, however, that present stock price levels are not discouraging corporate confidence, preventing balanced growth in the nation's economy.

The central bank chief said the yen's strong advance against the U.S. dollar is favorable in consideration of the balance of accounts and domestic prices.

Mieno ruled out any immediate further cut in the official discount rate, saying the bank is continuing to monitor

the effects on the economy of its latest cut in the key rate in late December by 0.5 percentage point to 4.5 percent per annum.

BOJ Source Says CD Rate Plunge 'Abnormal'

OW2201141392 Tokyo KYODO in English 1349 GMT 22 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 22 KYODO—A Bank of Japan (BOJ) source described Wednesday's plunge in the rate of certificates of deposit (CD's) as "abnormal," saying the drop was only an interim decline.

The CD rate has gone too low even compared with overnight call money rates, he said.

The newly-issued three-month CD's shed 0.25 percentage point from Tuesday to 4.95 percent. It was the first time they had dipped below the 5 percent line in two years and eight months.

BOJ: Money Supply Growth Hits Historic Low

OW2301033292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0258 GMT 23 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 23 (KYODO)—Japan's broadly defined money supply in December grew at a record low rate of 2.0 percent from a year earlier, the Bank of Japan (BOJ) said Thursday.

Money supply growth for calendar 1991 averaged 3.6 percent, the slowest yearly average to date.

Growth in the widely watched broad money supply—M2 (cash in circulation and time and demand deposits) plus certificates of deposit (CDs)—averaged 2.2 percent in the October-December quarter.

The slower December growth continues a trend in which the rate of expansion of the money supply set successive record lows between the months of July and November.

The slowing trend was temporarily halted in November when the money supply grew at a revised 2.4 percent from a year earlier.

Stock Investor Pleads Guilty in Fraud Case

OW2301121192 Tokyo KYODO in English 1114 GMT 23 JAN 92

[Text] Osaka, Jan. 2 KYODO—A high-rolling Osaka stock investor Thursday pleaded guilty to defrauding several financial institutions of 179 billion yen worth of securities in the biggest loan fraud case in Japan's history.

Nui Onoue, 61, entered the guilty plea at the First Osaka District Court hearing of the case. The charges involve the alleged forgery of 22 deposit receipts worth 421 billion yen by senior officials at Tokyo Shinkin Bank, Japan's 56th-largest credit union, and at another Osaka-based credit union.

Onoue, owner of a popular Osaka restaurant, and three co-defendants went on trial Thursday. Prosecutors allege Onoue borrowed 3.2 trillion yen over five and a half years from various financial institutions to finance speculation in the stock markets.

They charge that Onoue conspired with co-defendant Asami Maekawa, the Imazato branch manager of Tokyo Shinkin Bank, to swindle the financial institutions, mostly loan companies, out of 179 billion yen by fabricating Toyo Shinkin deposit slips to use as collateral for loans.

Also on trial are Yoshiaki Ariki, former head of the loan inspection bureau of National Lease Co., an Osaka-based lending institution, and Eiichiro Hayata, head of the Kitahama Plaza branch office of Daishinpan Co., an Osaka consumer credit company.

"There are no mistakes in the allegations that I had the collateral replaced with deposit receipts which I had asked Maekawa to issue," Onoue said in court Thursday.

Maekawa also said the charges against him were true but his attorney appealed for leniency for him by asserting Onoue masterminded the forgery scheme and that Maekawa only assisted her.

During the hearing, Onoue also said "I did not have any intention of inflicting financial damage on Daishinpan."

Daishinpan sold her 10 billion yen worth of its debentures, which she later mortgaged to borrow 10 billion yen from the company.

Onoue is accused of cheating Daishinpan and other companies of 90 billion yen by illegally withdrawing securities she had mortgaged.

Prosecutors have said Daishinpan lost 10 billion yen after Hayata, its branch head, helped Onoue withdraw the debentures without permission from his superiors.

Daishinpan faces difficulty in recovering the loans, as it had accepted its own debentures as collateral, prosecutors said.

Hayata pleaded guilty to breaching the trust his company had placed in him, but denied some of the other charges against him.

Ariki, the former National Lease executive, also told the court that Onoue deceived him into returning securities she had mortgaged.

"I had my firm's executive in charge of the business (with Onoue) to confirm the return of the collateral to her in front of his eyes, as I had previously done so provisionally with the consent of my company superior," he said.

The Tokyo Shinkin case last summer caused the resignation of Kaneo Nakamura, former chairman of the

Industrial Bank of Japan (IBJ), Japan's top long-term credit bank. The IBJ and its affiliates loaned about 240 billion yen to Onoue.

Onoue was the largest individual shareholder of the IBJ and Dai-Ichi Kangyo Bank.

Firms More Cautious in Mid-Career Recruiting

*OW2301083692 Tokyo KYODO in English 0806 GMT
23 Jan 92*

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 23 KYODO—Japanese companies are becoming more cautious in mid-career recruitment of workers amid a national economic slowdown, according to a private survey published Thursday.

The survey, published by the Employment Information Firm Recruit Research Co., showed the proportion of companies planning mid-career recruitment of full-time male workers in 1992 was 41.9 percent, down 11.9 percentage points from a year earlier.

Mid-career recruitment of experienced personnel has become increasingly common in Japan in recent years, traditionally the land of lifelong employment, due to a serious manpower shortage.

The survey was based on questionnaires sent to all the 2,089 companies listed on the nation's stock exchanges. Recruit said 74.1 percent of the companies responded.

The survey also showed that the proportion of companies undecided about mid-career recruitment of full-time male workers in 1992 was a record 25.9 percent, while that of companies planning no such recruitment was 32.2 percent.

In 1991 a record 70.8 percent of the exchange-listed companies resorted to mid-career recruitment of full-time male workers, recruit said. The comparable rate for full-time female workers was 52.0 percent.

Recruit said the economic slowdown and uncertain business prospects has made employers more careful in their recruitment plans.

But the companies planning mid-career recruitment in 1992 plan to hire an average 47.3 male full-time workers, up 15.9 percent from those actually employed in 1991.

NEC Launches New Line of Supercomputers

*OW2101101992 Tokyo KYODO in English 0852 GMT
21 Jan 92*

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 21 KYODO—NEC Corp. on Tuesday unveiled a new line of supercomputers which it claims are the fastest in the world.

The new SX-3 R series supercomputers use one to four processors and have a computing range from 0.8 billion floating point operations per second (flops) to 25.6 gigaflops, a measurement used to gauge a computer's performance, NEC officials said.

The advanced four-processor SX-3 44R is much faster than Cray Research Inc.'s C-90, which the company announced last November could calculate at a speed of 24 gigaflops, NEC officials said.

NEC's new supercomputers can also process data 16 percent faster than its predecessor SX-3 series, company officials said.

Supercomputers are widely used by scientists and engineers in the auto, aerospace, and petrochemical industries, as well as by researchers to perform complex high-speed computations.

The company expects to ship about 80 of its new supercomputers over the next four years, starting from this September, officials said.

NEC said it will charge customers between 26 million yen to 102 million yen to rent the computers on a monthly basis.

Ships Urged To Install New Distress System

*OW2301090792 Tokyo KYODO in English 0855 GMT
23 Jan 92*

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 23 KYODO—The Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications said Thursday it will urge all Japanese shipowners to equip their vessels with the high-technology Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) to be introduced worldwide February 1.

GMDSS, based on satellite and digital communication technologies, has been developed to replace the existing radio SOS transmission system.

Installation of GMDSS will be legally required by February 1, 1999, on all passenger vessels carrying more than 13 persons or on fishing boats of more than 20 tons, under the Japanese maritime safety law.

SOS, an internationally recognized signal of distress in radio code, has long been used by ships calling for help.

The SOS system, operated manually, requires experienced radio operators and is difficult to use in an emergency, officials said.

GMDSS is easy to operate, facilitates instant transmission of a distress signal, including information on the exact location of the ship, and establishes communication with maritime safety authorities on land and with rescue ships, they said.

Japan has an estimated 820,000 vessels but the GMDSS equipment will be required on only 20,000 of them, the officials said.

They said, however, all Japanese shipowners will be urged to install the new system on their vessels, regardless of the size.

Recycling of 'Fishery-Related Waste' Urged*OW2001041292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0317 GMT
20 Jan 92*

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 20 KYODO—The Health and Welfare Ministry called on local governments to map out disposal plans and promote recycling of fishery-related waste to prevent maritime pollution, ministry officials said on Monday.

The ministry estimated the amount of waste from scrapped fishing boats made of fiber reinforced plastics (FRP) will increase to 44,200 tons in 2000, up from 3,000 tons in 1989.

Polystyrene foam waste from fish containers is also expected to increase, reaching 128,000 tons in 2000 from 69,000 tons in 1989, the officials said.

The volume of discarded fishnets is projected to remain at 25,000 tons in 2000, the same as the 1989 figure, they said.

The ministry said fishery operators should take responsibility for disposal of their own fishery-related waste.

Nearly 80 percent of fishing boats are made of FRP, which makes them difficult to dispose or recycle.

Mongolia**MPRP Urges Byambasuren To Remain in Post***OW2101143692 Beijing XINHUA in English
1415 GMT 21 JAN 92*

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, January 21 (XINHUA)—The Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party (MPRP), which accounts for 84 percent of the seats in the Great People's Hural (congress), has appealed to Prime Minister Dashiyn Byambasuren to remain in his post.

Byambasuren announced his resignation January 16 at the second meeting of the 12th session of the congress.

In a meeting of the MPRP Central Committee today, the party's decision making organ called on congressmen to persuade Byambasuren to stay on.

Byambasuren, a MPRP Central Committee member, said in his resignation speech that the government could no longer work normally because it had lost the people's trust.

Mongolia was faced with tremendous difficulties during its transitional period towards a market economy, he said.

Little progress had been reported in the country's economic performance despite enormous efforts by the government, he added.

Parliament Rejects Prime Minister's Resignation*BK2301103892 Hong Kong AFP in English 1022 GMT
23 Jan 92*

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, Jan 23 (AFP)—Mongolian Prime Minister Dashiyn Byambasuren is to remain in his post until general elections in June after the People's Great Hural (parliament) refused Thursday to accept his resignation.

Legislators voted 186 to 129 to reject the resignation of the 49-year-old Moscow-trained economist, who submitted it last week.

Byambasuren became prime minister in September 1990, shortly after the former Soviet satellite state—wedged between China and Russia—held its first multi-party elections.

Mongolia's 2.5 million people have since been grappling with a severe economic crisis as their country moves towards a market economy with growing discontent over the government's handling of economic issues.

Byambasuren, who said he wanted to step down to avert a political crisis, is to remain head of government until June, political analysts said.

The Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party, to which Byambasuren belongs, meanwhile announced that its 21st congress will be held in Ulaanbaatar on February 27-29.

Mongolian Renaissance Party Formally Registers*OW2101095992 Beijing XINHUA in English
0924 GMT 21 JAN 92*

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, January 21 (XINHUA)—The Party for Mongolian Renaissance has formally been registered with the Supreme Court in accordance with the political party law, the newspaper "PEOPLE'S RIGHTS" reported today.

The new party was founded on November 30, 1991. Its predecessor was the tradition and reform wing of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party.

The party was registered on January 18 with a membership of 814. It has become the eighth political party in the country that has a legal status.

Belarussian Official Kebich Plans To Visit*LD2101235292 Moscow TASS International Service
in Russian 1955 GMT 21 Jan 92*

[By TASS correspondent Dugar Sanzhiyev]

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, 21 Jan (TASS)—V. Kebich, chairman of the Belarussian Council of Ministers, will pay a working visit to the Mongolian People's Republic in the next few days. An official notification of this was issued here today.

The visit is taking place at the invitation of the Mongolian Government. Local leaders are attaching great hopes to the visit, local observers are saying. In particular, the establishment of direct relations with the Belavtomaz association is expected.

Tens of heavy-tonnage dump trucks from the former USSR are lying idle at many leading opencast mines, as for example at the mine workings of the Erdenet copper and molybdenum enterprise, because of an absence of supplies of spare parts and rubber for powerful quarry vehicles produced in the Republic of Belarus.

North Korea

N-S Delegates Discuss Organizing Subcommittee

SK2301082892 *Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean* 0708 GMT 23 Jan 92

[Text] A contact between delegates of both sides to the North-South high-level talks was held on 23 January in the South side's area of Panmunjom to discuss organizing and operating the subcommittees.

Two delegates and four delegation members from each side were present. The contact was held behind closed doors.

The two sides discussed organizing and operating the subcommittees according to the North-South agreement on reconciliation, nonaggression, and cooperation and exchanges adopted at the fifth round of the North-South high-level talks held in December last year.

The next contact will be held on 29 January at Tongilgak, located in our side's area in Panmunjom.

South Plans To Purchase French-Made Missiles

SK2301051392 *Pyongyang KCNA in English* 0430 GMT 23 Jan 92

[Text] *Pyongyang* January 23 (KCNA)—The South Korean authorities are scheming to purchase Mistral missiles worth one billion francs from France, a Seoul-based foreign report said on January 21.

They had worked out a three-phased programme to equip South Korea with a system of those missiles and hastened its realization and, as the first of the phases, signed recently a contract to introduce the missiles with the French Matra weapons and electronics firm.

During the next four to five years the South Korean authorities will reportedly purchase mistral missiles worth between three and four billion francs.

This makes it plain that the South Korean authorities have no intention to implement "Agreement on Reconciliation, Nonaggression, Cooperation and Exchange Between the North and the South" adopted at the fifth inter-Korean high-level talks.

South's Joint Chiefs Statement Criticized

SK2301054692 *Pyongyang KCNA in English* 0445 GMT 23 Jan 92

["Intentional Move To Incite Confrontation"—KCNA headline]

[Text] *Pyongyang* January 23 (KCNA)—The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the South Korean puppet army who is concurrently chief of the headquarters of anti-espionage measures told a "Central Meeting for Counter-Espionage Measures" on January 21 that the North has not given up the "strategy of communization of the South" and that "A joint defense posture of the people, government and army should be strengthened against the North's camouflaged peace offensive." This is an extremely provocative outburst and calculated move to whip up confrontation against the nation's desire for peace and reunification, says NODONG SINMUN in a signed commentary today, which reads in part:

The puppets blatantly provoked us not because they had no idea of our sincerity or because they felt any actual threat. It is attributable to their sinister intention to do wrong to us.

They are trying to turn back the trend of the times toward reunification by pursuing their policy of confrontation against us.

The South Korean authorities reluctantly signed the inter-Korean agreement in face of our just line and sincere efforts for peace and reunification, but they are as ever pursuing the policy of confrontation and war. This is an anti-national, anti-peace and anti-reunification criminal act of going against our nation's aspirations for peace and reunification and pushing the North-South relations to a phase of keyed-up tensions and war.

The South Korean rulers must take the stand of reconciliation, unity and reunification in keeping with the spirit of the North-South agreement and with the expectation of people and renounce their policy of confrontation and war.

A commentary of MINJU CHOSON says the puppet clique's heinous anti-communist confrontation moves are aimed at diverting elsewhere the attention of the South Korean people and thus gratifying the ambition for long-term office by holding "elections" including the "National Assembly" elections without difficulty, and at suppressing the people who demand independence, democracy and reunification and justifying their arms buildup and war preparations.

Peace, Military Problems Need Spirit of Agreement

SK2201112292 *Pyongyang KCNA in English* 1009 GMT 22 Jan 92

["Peace and Military Problems Must Be Solved Primarily in Spirit of Agreement"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang January 22 (KCNA)—If the South Korean authorities have an intention to sincerely implement the North-South agreement, they should pay due attention to the questions of nonaggression and reconciliation and strive for the practical solution of the knotty problems in this, urges NODONG SINMUN in a signed article today.

Only when the peace question is solved at an early date is it possible to save the nation from the danger of nuclear war and only when the military confrontation is removed is it possible to achieve national reconciliation and unity on the basis of mutual trust and realise cooperation and exchange with credit, the article says, and continues:

In order to sincerely honor the promise on nonaggression the North and the South should give up the use of arms against the other side, settle the conflicting views peacefully through dialogue and negotiations and take measures promptly to build military confidence and realize disarmament.

The South Korean chief executive, however, talking about "full implementation" of the North-South agreement in his "new year's press conference," did not utter a word about the realisation of nonaggression and reconciliation between the North and the South, but made reference only to the "exchange" and separated families.

This is a replica of the "exchange first" argument the No Tae-u authorities have resorted to from long ago. It cannot be seen as an attitude to implement the "agreement" with sincerity.

The South Korean authorities' oft-repeated "exchange first" argument is an unreasonable, unfeasible one under the specific conditions of our country where the two sides stand opposed to each other politically and militarily.

The South Korean authorities claim that as it is difficult to solve the military problem its solution should be shelved and easy "humanitarian issues" and "question of exchange" should be settled stage by stage and gradually before anything else.

This is an expression of indifference to the most urgent peace and military problems and a pretext to flee from their settlement.

Avoiding a solution of the military problem and insisting on "exchange" is tantamount to opposing travels and exchange themselves.

If the South Korean authorities turn their back on the solution of the peace and military problems, seeking North-South confrontation and war in conspiracy with the foreign forces this year, too they will be unable to escape condemnations from the whole nation who aspire after peace and reunification of the country.

Defector, Family From South 'Warmly' Welcomed

*SK2301122492 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1045 23 Jan GMT 92*

[Text] Pyongyang January 23 (KCNA)—Pyongyang citizens met today to warmly welcome Son Su-kuk, 30, and his family who recently came to the northern half of the country from South Korea through a third country.

He was the director of the Taegu Mirae Architectural Designing Office and special member of the financial policy [as received] of the Democratic Party in South Korea.

He was awarded an order of the DPRK and he and his family were given a large sum of monetary prize and souvenirs at the meeting.

In his welcoming address, Sin An-pang, vice-chairman of the Pyongyang Municipal Administration and Economic Guidance Committee, warmly welcomed with compatriotic feelings their coming over to the socialist homeland, rejecting the colonial military fascist rule of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities.

In his reply, Son Su-kuk said he came to the North in reverence for President Kim Il-song and the dear leader Mr. Kim Chong-il, determined to devote himself to the cause of reunification under their administration.

Noting that South Korea with no independent idea and faith is totally subordinated to the United States and is at its beck and call, he said all the policies of South Korea are a product of the U.S. enslavement policy.

The society in the North which was established by the great President Kim Il-song and has been brought to prosperity by the dear leader Mr. Kim Chong-il is the true homeland for our 70 million fellow countrymen, he stressed.

He vowed to devote himself to the cause of national reunification.

U.S. Conducts Air Military Exercise 21 Jan

*SK2301052792 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0433 GMT 23 Jan 92*

[Text] Pyongyang January 23 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialist aggressors brought E-3A early warning planes to the South Korean air from the Kadena [Air] Base in Okinawa on January 21 to command flying corps mobilized in a military exercise and, at the same time, commit aerial espionage on the strategic interior of the northern half of Korea, according to military sources.

That day, they let a U-2 high-altitude strategic reconnaissance plane commit electronic espionage on the depths of the DPRK and made army tactical reconnaissance planes spy on the forward area of the North side.

In the meantime, the South Korean puppet army staged frantic ground and aerial military manoeuvres in an area adjacent to the Demilitarized Zone along the Military Demarcation Line.

On the 21st, 105 mm guns belonging to the puppet army fired off a volley of some 30 shells and soldiers of the puppet army fired some 200 bullets with 12.7 machine guns and M-16 rifles.

On the same day, C-130 and C-123 transport planes belonging to the puppet army staged parachuting and strategic material airlifting exercises and some ten armed helicopters staged an exercise aimed at infiltrating into the depths of the North side, making low-altitude and ultra low-altitude flights.

The warplanes mobilized in aerial espionage and aerial exercises against the northern half of the country in the South Korean airspace on January 21 totalled more than 600.

Official Reviews Visit of Special Envoy Rogachev

*SK2301113192 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1015 GMT 23 Jan 92*

[Text] Pyongyang January 23 (KCNA)—An information official of the DPRK Foreign Ministry was interviewed by a KCNA reporter today regarding the visit to the DPRK by Igor Rogachev, a special envoy of the Russian president and ambassador in charge of special missions of the Foreign Ministry.

He said:

Rogachev, a special envoy of the Russian president and ambassador in charge of special missions of the Foreign Ministry, paid a visit to our country from January 17 to 21.

During the visit Vice-President Yi Chong-ok met the special envoy and the first vice-minister of foreign affairs had a conversation with him.

At the talks they informed each other of the situation of their countries and exchanged views on some international issues.

The stand of the sides to continue favorably developing the relations between our country and the Russian Federation on the principles of independence, mutual respect and non-interference in the other's internal affairs and in the interests of the two peoples was confirmed at the talks.

It was also confirmed that since the nuclear problem in our country was being resolved affirmatively thanks to our active and strenuous efforts and our republic has already manifested its stand time and again there would arise no problem thereof.

Our side pointed out that it was urgently required to establish a unified control over the nuclear weapons currently lying scattered in the territory of the former Soviet Union as international apprehensions for them

were growing with every passing day, and stressed that it is essential for the commonwealth member countries possessed of nuclear arms to sign the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty at an early date and place themselves under the control of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

The Russian side nodded in assent and informed our side in detail of the steps being taken in this regard.

Statement Condemns Japan's Nuclear Plan

*SK2201152792 Pyongyang Korean Central
Broadcasting Network in Korean 2100 GMT 19 Jan 92*

[Statement by Paek Nam-chun, vice chairman of Korean Antinuclear Peace Committee, on 19 January—read by announcer]

[Text] Thanks to our Republic's consistent peace-loving antinuclear, non-nuclear [pihaek] policy and to active efforts to implement it, a path for the resolution of the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula has been finally opened and the nuclear danger hanging over our people has been removed for the moment. The peace-loving people and a broad range of social circles are pleased with and welcome this.

Late last year the document of the agreement on reconciliation, nonaggression, and cooperation and exchanges between the North and the South was adopted during the North-South high-level talks. Following this, the North and the South reached an agreement on a joint declaration on denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, and the Team Spirit joint military exercise is being temporarily suspended in South Korea. In addition, the withdrawal of U.S. nuclear weapons from South Korea was announced indirectly.

This serves as an affirmative contribution to ensuring peace and security in Northeast Asia, including the Korean peninsula, and in the world.

However, running counter to such an affirmative development in the situation, the nuclear danger is rapidly increasing in Japan, which has suffered direct nuclear calamities. This evokes deep concern by the people in Asia and the world.

Of late, Japan is resorting various means and methods in an attempt to realize its ambition to become a great military power. By increasing its armed forces behind signboards of the peace constitution, Japan has acquired prominent military power in the world. While recently talking about the unstable situation in the Asian-Pacific region and a potential threat from someone else, Japan is pushing ahead with the plan for building powerful armed forces on the pretext of an independent and modernized defense, thus trying to complete its plan to be a great military power.

Nuclear armament became an important goal in Japan's plan to be a great military power, and this goal is being pushed forward on a larger scale.

According to the remarks of Paul Leventhal, president of the U.S. Nuclear Control Institute, Japan is planning to secure 100 tons of plutonium by the beginning of the 2,000's. With this amount, more nuclear warheads than the superpowers possess can be produced, and in 1995 Japan would have the third largest reprocessing capability after the United States and France.

By accelerating such an antipeace, dangerous nuclear plan, Japan accumulated more nuclear materials than necessary. Thus, Japan has secured the material and technological conditions to possess nuclear weapons on any single morning.

The reality shows that Japan is actually becoming a para-nuclear state by secretly fostering its nuclear potential. Japan's acceleration of becoming a big military power and, in particular, its accumulation of a large quantity of nuclear materials are a great threat to peace and security in Northeast Asia and are a constant source of threat to the Korean peninsula, which is geographically close to Japan.

This being the reality, the Korean people, who know the true intention of the Japanese ruling circles better than anyone else through historic experiences, do not possess the nuclear weapons. The Korean people have neither the intention nor capabilities to manufacture them and have repeatedly expressed the willingness to accept a fair nuclear inspection. However, they recklessly attempted to enforce nuclear inspection on us under the pretext of the development of nuclear weapons. It is not difficult for us to guess their true ambitious intention.

Today when an agreement on the declaration on denuclearization of the Korean peninsula has been reached between the North and the South, the direct nuclear threat against our people comes from Japan. It is as clear as fire that those who will suffer from Japan's nuclear threat, which has been raised as a practical problem, are all the Korean people.

Therefore, our people are faced with the important task of preventing a nuclear threat from Japan at any cost. What is important in doing this is, above all, for the North and the South to make joint efforts by uniting their strength.

The adoption of the agreement on reconciliation, non-aggression, and cooperation and exchanges between the North and the South and the agreement on the joint declaration on denuclearization of the Korean peninsula show that if the North and the South jointly make sincere efforts, great national unity will be possible and they can prevent Japan's nuclear threat through the might of their unity.

The North and the South should not only jointly accelerate denuclearization of the Korean peninsula but also

struggle to prevent an outside nuclear threat as a common national task. Thus, they should make active efforts.

Japan's nuclear potential is a threat not only to the Korean people but also to the Asian countries who suffered greatly from Japan, as well as to the world's people. This is true because of Japan's ambition and dream to hold the position of a big nation politically and militarily in the present international arena, where the structure of confrontation between the superpowers has been destroyed, and of playing the main role in establishing the so-called new international order.

Historic experiences show that if one looks idly on Japan becoming a great military power and in particular, its nuclear arming, irretrievable consequences will overtake the world's people, not to mention the Asian people.

The prevailing situation demands that the world's people, not to mention the Asian people, take joint, unanimous action to prevent Japan's nuclear armament.

The present time is the era of independence, and today's Asia is not the Asia of yesterday. Japan should not forget the lessons of history and should abandon the dangerous nuclear development plan by looking straight at the trend of the time. Japan must immediately suspend actions that create a nuclear threat against the Korean people.

We appeal to the peaceloving people in Asia and the world to heighten vigilance against Japan's nuclear threat, to remove such a threat, and to make joint efforts to build a new peaceful and prosperous Asia and world free from nuclear weapons and war.

Envoy to PRC Criticizes Japan on Comfort Girls

*SK2301124092 Beijing Radio Beijing in Korean
1100 GMT 22 Jan 92*

[Text] Chu Chang-chun, DPRK ambassador to China, held a press conference in Beijing this morning on the issue of the Korean comfort girls during World War II.

Ambassador Chu Chang-chun said: Factual evidence indicating that approximately 100,000 to 200,000 Korean women were forcibly taken to the Japanese troops as comfort girls during the Pacific war is being disclosed in Japan and South Korea. This has attracted the attention of the public both at home and abroad.

He continued: Even though the facts about the comfort girls are being revealed and are arousing international indignation, the Japanese Government at first denied their veracity. While reluctantly acknowledging its responsibility now, they are trying to tactfully avoid responsibility for compensation. Such an attitude by the Japanese Government authorities simply make the Korean people angry.

Ambassador Chu added: Japanese Government authorities cannot deny the crime they committed against the Korean people and can never avoid their responsibility for compensation.

Delegations Leave for Denmark, France, Spain

*SK2301121892 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1042 GMT 23 Jan 92*

[Text] Pyongyang January 23 (KCNA)—A delegation of the Workers' Party of Korea led by Kim Kwang-u, vice-director of the Institute of International Affairs, for a visit to Denmark and a delegation of the League of Socialist Working Youth of Korea led by Chairman of its Central Committee Choe Yong-hae to visit France and Spain left here today by air. [sentence as received]

Korea-Cuba Solidarity Committee Meeting Held

*SK2301122292 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1043 GMT 23 Jan 92*

[Text] Pyongyang January 23 (KCNA)—An annual meeting of the Korea-Cuba Solidarity Committee was held here today.

Present there were Kim Chin-pom, vice-chairman of the Committee for Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries and vice-chairman of the Korea-Cuba Solidarity Committee, and members of the Solidarity Committee.

Cuban Ambassador to Korea Juan Jose Leon Vega and his embassy officials were also on hand.

The meeting reviewed the work of the committee over the past one year and discussed its working plan for this year.

Kim Il-song Receives Guyanese Envoy's Credentials

*SK2301113992 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1020 GMT 23 Jan 92*

[Text] Pyongyang January 23 (KCNA)—President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea today received credentials from Ronald Mortimer Austin, newly appointed Guyanese ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Korea.

Present on the occasion were First Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Kang Sok-chu and an official of the Guyanese Embassy.

After the presentation ceremony, President Kim Il-song conversed with the ambassador.

Daily Urges Implementation of Chuche Principle

*SK2001113192 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1011 GMT 20 Jan 92*

["NODONG SINMUN Calls for More Firmly Establishing Chuche Principle"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang January 20 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today devotes much space to an editorial headlined "Let Us More Firmly Establish Chuche Principle in All Political, Economic and Cultural Fields."

The editorial quotes the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song as teaching in his New Year address:

"Our general direction in socialist construction at the present time is to establish chuche principle more firmly in all fields of politics, the economy and culture, so that we may actively provide against the rapidly changing situation by pressing on with the three revolutions—ideological, technical and cultural."

The editorial says:

The teachings of the great leader on firmly establishing chuche principle reflect a firm resolution and lofty intention to continue to advance our revolution along the straight road of independence and carry it to completion, upholding the banner of the chuche idea without the slightest vacillation under whatever circumstances.

The revolutionary policy of more firmly establishing chuche principle to provide against the fast changing situation is the most just policy put forward only by the great leader who is possessed of rare wisdom, distinguished leadership ability and iron will and has accumulated very rich experiences and performed undying feats, leading the people's cause of independence along the road of continued victory.

More firmly establishing chuche principle in all aspects of socialist construction at the present is a question of principle in firmly protecting the bloodline of our party and revolution and dynamically stepping up the cause of socialism of our style. Only when chuche principle is thoroughly established in socialist construction, is it possible to build and develop a genuine society for the people, which conforms to the specific conditions of their country and their aspirations and demands.

If we firmly establish chuche principle in all domains and the entire people fulfil their responsibility and role befitting the masters of the state and society, rallied close around the party, there can be no unscalable fortress for us.

Our people are now building socialism under the situation in which the imperialists are unprecedentedly intensifying their vicious antisocialist, anti-DPRK campaign. The U.S.-led imperialists and reactionaries are making desperate efforts to arrest the powerful grand socialist march of our people. The struggle to smash the reckless anti-socialist manoeuvrings of the enemies is a struggle for the defence of the nation's sovereignty and dignity with honour and for the eternal prosperity and happiness of the nation as well as a fierce confrontation between all hues of counter-revolutionary forces and the anti-imperialist forces for independence. In order to win victory in the struggle, it is imperative to thoroughly establish chuche principle as never before and resolutely

check and frustrate the counter-revolutionary offensives of the enemies with the might of the internal forces.

It is our party's firm stand to safeguard the revolution and advance along the road of socialism to the end, holding aloft the banner of *chuche*. Our party and people who value the destiny of the revolution and the dignity of the nation more than their lives can neither blindly follow other's way nor abandon the banner of revolution, the banner of socialism, before trials and difficulties.

The whole history of the Korean revolution that has emerged ever-victorious through twists and turns is a brilliant history in which *chuche* has been established.

The history of the victory of the Korean revolution spanning over half a century and the present-day reality prove the valuable truth that the fundamental key to all victories and the true way of the independent development and prosperity of the nation lie in thoroughly establishing *chuche*.

In order to establish *chuche* principle in all fields of politics, the economy and culture, it is essential to continue uplifting the revolutionary banner of the *chuche* idea, solve all the questions our own way from the *chuche*-based stand in accordance with the specific conditions of the country and the interests of the people and remain unfailingly loyal to the leadership of our party, the editorial says, adding:

The powerful strength to establish *chuche* in socialist construction lies in the single-hearted unity of the leader, the party and the masses.

Our singlehearted unity is the most valuable gain won in the struggle to establish *chuche* and the source of the great strength which makes it possible to firmly establish *chuche* for good and all.

Economic Achievements of New Year Detailed

SK2101113292 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1013 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Text] Pyongyang January 21 (KCNA)—From the beginning of the new year a great upswing is being effected in production in different domains of the national economy of Korea in response to the New Year address of the great leader President Kim Il-song.

Power producers throughout the country put out much more electricity during the last 15 days of this year than in the corresponding period last year.

In this period 1.16 million more kwh [kilowatt-hours] of electricity was produced daily at the thermal power stations in South Pyongan Province including the Pukchang thermal power complex and the Chongchong-gang Thermal Power Station, and production at the hydraulic power stations in Chagang Province increased by 10 million KWH.

Coal fields in South Pyongan Province including those in Tokchon, Pukchang, Anju, Kaechon and Sunchon which turned out over 160,000 more tons of coal in the first ten days of the new year than in the same period last year, are ensuring a steady, high rate of production.

The General Bureau of Northern Railways is these days carrying above 1,000 more tons of freight on a daily average than in the same period at the end of last year.

The Kim Chong-tae electric locomotive complex which carried out its first ten day quotas of January at 108 percent is overfulfilling the daily quotas every day.

The Yongsong General Machine Bureau is putting spurs on the work to produce in a short span of time a 40,000 cubic metre gas centrifugal compressor, a 5,000 hp [horsepower] compressor, a 16,000 cubic metre nitrogenous centrifugal compressor, an ammonia compounding tower and other facilities needed for the construction of the fertilizer plant of the Sunchon vinalon complex, and high-pressure tube rolling equipment intended for the Songjin steel complex.

Innovations have been reported also from the Chongjin chemical fibre complex, the Haeju Cement Factory, the Pyongyang Textile Combine, the Yupyong Forestry Station and many other factories and enterprises.

Coastal Areas Improve Kelp, Mussel Production

SK2301045292 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0410 GMT 23 Jan 92

[Text] Pyongyang January 22 (KCNA)—Kelps and mussels are being largely thinned on the culture farms in the East and West Seas of Korea.

Seafood cultivation centres across the country have improved technical management to suit the growth conditions of kelp, securing an unprecedented bumper harvest this year.

Thus, the thinning out of kelp began some 20 days earlier than last year and production through it has increased markedly.

Cultivation centres under the South Hwanghae Provincial Fisheries Administration including those in Pupo, Pyonghwa and Ongjin increased the output of kelp more than 50 percent in the last one week above the same period last year.

Mussel production is increasing at the sea culture farms on the east coast under the General Bureau of Pelagic Fishing.

Especially, farms under the South Hamgyong Provincial General Bureau of Fisheries have boosted the daily production of mussel 20 percent above the like period last year.

Daily Views Kim Il-song Work on Medical Care

SK1901093792 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0832 GMT 19 Jan 92

["Historical Work Which Clearly Indicates Way of Establishing Superior Man-centered Public Health System"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang January 19 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today runs a signed article on the lapse of 40 years since the great leader President Kim Il-song published the classical work *"On Making Good Preparations for Universal, Free Medical Care"* on January 20, 1952.

In the work President Kim Il-song scientifically analysed the political significance and necessity of the introduction of universal and free medical care and its possibilities and conditions and clearly indicated principles and ways in its introduction.

The article quotes the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song as saying:

"We should introduce universal and free medical care at state expense. This would be one of the most popular measures."

The article says in part:

The policy set forth by the great leader to introduce universal and free medical care is a unique one which clearly indicates the way of thoroughly protecting lives and health of the people and freeing them from all kinds of diseases left over from old society by embodying the immortal *chuche* idea.

It is also an original one based on a scientific analysis of the conditions and possibilities of its introduction and lawful requirements for the development of the popular health system in our country.

In the work the great leader said that universal and free medical care could be introduced ever under the war circumstances on the basis of the superiority of the people's democratic system of our country, the state guidance and social assistance to health care, a high degree of revolutionary zeal of health workers and achievements already made in the public health service.

The introduction of universal and free medical care system in the flames of the hard-fought war was an epochal event unprecedented in human history; it was a brilliant fruition of the wise guidance and benevolent affection of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song who regard the people as the most precious beings and devotes his all to them.

The great leader, on the basis of the achievements made in laying the foundations of socialism and solid material and technical foundations of the public health service after war, set forth a wise policy to consolidate and develop universal and free medical care and took a historic step to introduce the complete, universal and free medical care system in February 1960.

This resulted in the successful introduction of the most ideal, complete. Universal and free medical care system in which a high qualitative level is guaranteed in health care through a perfect primary health care system, an advanced section doctor system and specialized medical service system.

Our complete, universal and free medical care system is the most superior health system meeting the intrinsic requirements of our socialist system centering on the masses and its invincible vitality is clearly proved in practice. The article calls upon all the medical workers to make an active contribution to protecting the lives of the people better and constantly improving their health.

Anniversary of Kim Il-song 'Classical Work' Noted

SK1501112092 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0959 GMT 15 Jan 92

["Revolutionary Banner Leading Anti-imperialist Cause of Independence to Victory"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang January 15 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today comes out with a by-lined article upon the lapse of 30 years since the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il published the classical work *"On Characteristics of Modern Imperialism and Its Aggressive Nature"* on January 15, 1962.

In the classical work, Comrade Kim Chong-il gives an exposition to the characteristics of modern imperialism and its aggressive nature and expounded on a scientific basis the reactionary nature of the opportunist sophism denying the viciousness and craftiness of imperialist aggression.

The article says:

Ideas and theories on the characteristics and aggressive nature of modern imperialism and on having correct viewpoint and maintaining principled attitude toward imperialism, which were propounded by Comrade Kim Chong-il in the work, are fully displaying their invincible vitality as days pass by.

The great theoretical and practical significance of the work lies, first of all, in that it gives a scientific exposition to the characteristics of modern imperialism so that the people may understand more deeply the inevitability of its destruction.

A scientific exposition of the characteristics of modern imperialism is the starting point in firmly adhering to the revolutionary stand in the struggle against imperialism and for independence with a correct understanding of imperialism.

The work, on the basis of a comprehensive analysis of imperialism, scientifically expounds the true appearance of modern imperialism and its characteristics and inevitability of its destruction, thus fulfilling successfully the

historical task raised by the era and revolution and making an undying contribution to the struggle against imperialism.

Another significance is that the work gives a scientific exposition to the viciousness and craftiness of imperialist aggression, thereby encouraging the people to wage the anti-imperialist struggle more actively.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has said:

"The viciousness of the aggression of modern imperialism is backed by its crafty nature. The craftiness of its aggression can be seen in its insidious moves to disorganize the socialist countries and revolutionary forces from within under the cloak of 'peace' and 'cooperation'".

It is important in seeing through the imperialists' counterrevolutionary moves and waging staunchly the anti-imperialist struggle to expose the viciousness and craftiness of imperialist aggression.

The work dealt a heavy blow at imperialists and provided the revolutionary people with the banner of struggle, the banner of victory, by fully exposing the viciousness and craftiness of the imperialists' moves of aggression.

By exposing the fact that the imperialists are resorting to cunning double-dealing strategy with a sword in one hand and an olive branch in the other in a bid to disorganize the socialist countries and revolutionary forces, the work made the people conscious that they can maintain and accomplish the cause of socialism only when they wage a resolute struggle against imperialism with a high revolutionary vigilance.

The work which exposes the reactionary nature of the opportunists' sophism denying the imperialists' aggressive nature and the principled questions arising in the struggle against them is an ideological weapon which makes the people hold fast to the revolutionary principle on the road of independence against imperialism, not allowing the slightest tendency of denumbing their anti-imperialist consciousness.

Our people are dynamically pressing on the cause of socialism, unaffected by any anti-socialist move of the imperialists, because our party's ideas and theories on imperialism and strategy and tactics of the anti-imperialist struggle indicate their road.

Press Group Publishes Scientific Books

SK2001152892 *Pyongyang KCNA in English*
1512 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Text] Pyongyang January 20 (KCNA)—The Science and Encyclopedia Press Group of Korea recently published "*Complete Book of Surgery*" (15 volumes), "*Complete Book of Prevention of Epidemics*" (ten volumes), "*Complete Book of Paediatrics*" (five volumes and seven

fascicles), "*Complete Book of Obstetrics and Gynaecology*" (ten volumes) and "*Complete Book of Otorhinolaryngology*" (five volumes).

These books with a total of some 24,700 pages have been printed in more than 239,000 copies.

They were written by some 800 prominent academicians, corresponding members of the academy, professors, doctors, physicians, researchers and teachers from institutes of medical science, medical educational establishments and central and provincial curative, preventive and anti-epidemic organs.

The books consummate and systematize on a scientific and technical basis the achievements made in the nation's medical scientific researches and curative, preventive and anti-epidemic work and comprehensively reflect the global trend of the development of different branches.

'Kimilsongism' Study Magazine Published in Japan

SK2301112192 *Pyongyang KCNA in English*
1008 GMT 23 Jan 92

[Text] Pyongyang January 23 (KCNA)—The Japanese Society for the Study of Kimilsungism published its magazine "STUDY OF KIMILSUNGISM" No. 59.

The magazine prints a photograph of the great leader President Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il directing urban construction.

It carries the full texts of President Kim Il-song's immortal classical work "*Answers to Questions Raised by the President of the KYODO NEWS SERVICE of Japan*" and Comrade Kim Chong-il's work "*Our Socialism Centred on the Masses Shall Not Perish*".

Edited in it are articles entitled "True Worth and Prospect of Socialism", "The Chuche Idea Shows the Road Ahead of People", "Socialism Supported and Trusted by People", "The Chuche Idea and Korean-style Socialism" and "Socialism We Aspire After".

It gives a photo-illustrated account of rallies, lecture meetings and study meetings held in different parts of Japan on the subjects "activities for study and dissemination of the chuche idea oriented toward man-centred socialism", "we follow the Korean-style socialism," etc. and of visits to Korea.

Priority Targets for Socialist Construction

SK2301054392 *Pyongyang MINJU CHOSON*
in Korean 9 Jan 92 p 2

[Article by Kim Yong-sok: "The Present Target in Socialist Construction"]

[Text] The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, in his New Year's address, put forth a general direction of socialist construction at present and clearly elucidated the important targets for us to attain in socialist construction.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: Realizing our people's century-old desire for all people to eat rice and meat soup, wear silk clothes, and live in a tile-roofed house is an important present target for us to attain in socialist construction.

The great leader clearly elucidated the important present target for us to attain in socialist construction in setting forth the present direction and method of socialist economic construction. Reflected in it is our party's lofty intent to further strengthen the country's economic might and provide our people with a more affluent material life. Our party's firm will and conviction is to bring forth a momentous upturn in socialist economic construction and realize as soon as possible our people's century-old desire to eat rice and meat soup, wear silk clothes, and live in a tile-roofed house. This lofty goal can only be successfully realized when we implement the line of building a self-reliant national economy and strengthen the country's economic might. We should continue to develop the self-reliant economy based on the country's resources and the strength of its people, that is, the socialism of our own style serving its people so as to satisfactorily solve the problem of food, clothing, and shelter, the important target problem which we should solve as a present task of socialist construction.

To more satisfactorily solve the problem of food, clothing, and shelter and realize our people's century-old desire according to our party's will, we should effect a revolutionary upsurge in socialist economic construction by thoroughly implementing the line of building a self-reliant national economy. If we attain this important target, our people's material life will become more affluent and the complete victory of socialism will be accelerated.

This important target in socialist construction put forth by the great leader in his New Year's address is the most revolutionary policy for continuously accelerating socialist and communist construction in this upheaval-ridden situation and a just policy which correctly assesses the realistic potentiality with a firm assurance to further improve the people's lives in conformity with the demand of social development.

The justness of this policy lies, above all, in the fact that it most precisely reflects the inevitable demands of socialist and communist construction.

To build socialism and communism is the lofty ideal of mankind, and it is realized through the struggle to occupy the ideological and material fortress of communism. While carrying on with the work to remake and change people and society in a communist way, we should occupy the material fortress by realizing social ownership of production means and highly developing production capacity to successfully build communist society.

To occupy the material fortress of communism is to provide an economic and material foundation for society which enables the popular masses to completely realize

independence in their social and economic life. To build this material foundation, we should develop the production capacity to the extent that we establish unitary communistic ownership of production means and realize distribution based on demand. To provide ourselves with this material foundation in successfully building communism, we should vigorously conduct the struggle for economic construction. Without the struggle to occupy the ideological fortress, we cannot occupy the material fortress; without the struggle to occupy the material fortress, we cannot successfully occupy the ideological fortress. Therefore, it is an inevitable requirement of socialist and communist construction to completely solve the problem of food, clothing, and shelter through the struggle to improve material life.

Socialist and communist societies are ideal societies for mankind that give the people a truly independent and creative life. To more brilliantly solve the people's problem of food, clothing, and shelter is one of the important guarantees to realize our people's century-old desire to eat rice and meat soup, wear silk clothes, and live in a tile-roofed house. The work to solve the problem of food, clothing, and shelter is not the kind of work to be done with the help of someone else or to be solved of its own accord. We can successfully realize this work by pushing ahead with the socialist economic construction based on our people's own strength, our own technology, and our own resources. Only when we thoroughly implement the line of building a self-reliant national economy consistently maintained by our party, can we successfully attain the present target of socialist construction.

That the important target to attain in socialist construction has been clearly defined and that the specific direction and method for its realization has been put forth means that we now have a firm guiding policy enabling us to continuously push ahead with socialist and communist construction in the face of all enemy maneuvers and the upheaval-ridden situation.

Truly, the present important target we must attain in socialist construction put forth by the great leader in his New Year's address reflects the invariable will of our party which vigorously pushes forward socialist and communist construction in the face of any difficulties and trials and the banner of encouragement which enables our people to wage a vigorous struggle under the party's leadership with firm faith in the victory of the cause of the revolution.

The justness of this policy also lies in the fact that it enables us to further exalt the superiority of the popular mass-centered socialism of our own style.

One of the fundamental points of the superiority of the socialism of our country is that it enables all the people to live freely and happily and enjoy an equal and affluent material life. Man can enjoy an independent and creative life when he is not only free politically but rich in material life. An equal and affluent material life is one of the two major areas of people's social life. This material

life of the people is given by the working class party and the state, and its foundation is laid through socialist economic construction.

Today our people enjoy an equal and happy life while being furnished by the state and society with all the things necessary for them to eat, wear, use, and live. This is attributable to the continuous strengthening of our country's economic might through socialist economic construction under the wise leadership of the party. Our party has been making continuous major efforts for socialist economic construction, in the face of the desperate maneuvers of the imperialists and reactionaries, to more satisfactorily solve the problem of food, clothing, and shelter for the people and provide them with a happier life. This represents the important aspect of the superiority of the socialism of our country.

The goal we seek to achieve beyond socialist construction, communist construction, is to make all the people enjoy free, happy, and more affluent life. Not only are the revolutionaries and communists prepared better than others ideologically and politically, but they should also uniformly lead a better life than others even in material terms. The characteristic of the socialist men's material life is that each and every one of them uniformly lead not only an equal, but affluent life. Herein lies the superiority of socialist society. The goal we should immediately attain in order to give full play to the superiority of socialism as such is to realize the desire of all of our people to eat rice and meat soup, wear silk robes, and live in tile-roofed houses. A brilliant solution to the issue of keeping people fed, clothed, and housed is an important work designed to give full play to the superiority of socialism as such in terms of material living.

If and when the popular masses take part in sociopolitical life in a socialist society with the air of being the masters, they can attain sociopolitical independence. However, if and when they fail to enjoy an equal and affluent life in terms of material living, in no sense can they be said to enjoy an independent and creative life. Only when they are made to enjoy an equal and affluent life, not only in terms of political living, but also in terms of material living, can people come to a deeper understanding about the superior nature of socialist society through their experience and will be made to devote themselves to the struggle for the victory of the socialist cause. When the people feel they do not enjoy an affluent and equal life in terms of material living, they do not take pride in the superiority of socialism, nor do they devote themselves to the struggle for the victory of the socialist cause.

This being the case, to successfully attain the immediate goal of solving the issue of keeping the people fed, clothed, and housed more satisfactorily by vigorously accelerating socialist economic construction is an important demand for giving full play to the superior nature of socialism as opposed to capitalism.

We should demonstrate the superiority of socialism even higher by strengthening the nation's economic might in all directions as a result of a brilliant solution to the question of keeping people fed, clothed, and housed, through the complete implementation of our party's lines for building the national economy of self-reliance and through a more vigorous struggle for realizing the cause of making the national economy chuche-oriented, modernized, and scientific. The more complicated the situation is and the more arduous the struggle is, the harder we should stage the struggle for realizing the lofty intentions of the party and leader, following only the party and leader with confidence in them, in order to build in our country a people's paradise in which we can live a better life.

Thus, reflected in the major goals which the great leader has stated in his New Year address to be fulfilled immediately in socialist construction are our party's long-range plans for making the people live a life far better than others by improving their standard of living without end. These are the programmatic guidelines that enable the functionaries and working people to have great pride and confidence in socialism and to vigorously accelerate socialist economic construction.

Thanks to our party's consistent struggle for brilliantly resolving the issue of keeping the people fed, clothed, and housed, our people's standard of material and cultural living has improved extraordinarily.

Our people are now filled with a firm determination to mark a great revolutionary upsurge in socialist economic construction assuming the tasks to be fulfilled immediately in socialist construction as their firm guidelines to adhere to in their struggle.

In his New Year address the great leader has set forth tasks to fulfill by concentrating greater effort on developing agriculture and light industry and on building a large number of dwellings in order to realize the immediate goals in socialist construction and resolve the issue of keeping the people fed, clothed, and housed more satisfactorily.

All the functionaries and working people should effect a momentous turning point in the struggle for realizing the immediate goals in socialist construction by upholding the great leader's New Year address in order to enhance this meaningful year, a year of victory, a glorious year, and the most brilliant year in the annals of our fatherland.

KCNA Reviews Pyongyang Press for 23 Jan

*SK2301061792 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0451 GMT 23 Jan 92*

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang January 23 (KCNA)—Papers here today report that foreign media gave publicity to the New Year address of the great leader President Kim

Il-song and South Korean people and figures of various countries actively support it.

Conveyed in NODONG SINMUN are words of South Korean people wishing the great leader President Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il good health and long life on the New Year.

The paper tells a story that President Kim Il-song and Comrade Kim Chong-il wisely led the work for the modernisation and automation of production processes of the Huichon machine tool complex.

Given in the press is an account of a function held in Guinea to mark the tenth anniversary of the foundation of the Kim Il-song Institute of Agricultural Science.

Printed in the press are a message of greetings to Comrade Kim Chong-il from the chairman and the general secretary of the Central Committee of the Dominican Labour Party upon his election as supreme commander of the Korean People's Army and news that his election was widely reported and hailed abroad.

NODONG SINMUN rounds up words of the director general of the International Institute of the Chuche Idea speaking highly of the feats performed by Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Thanks of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea was sent to an editor of the Korean Documentary Film Studio who has worked with sincerity in place of her fallen husband and to her children, according to the press.

Appearing in NODONG SINMUN is an editorial saying that the adoption of the "Joint Declaration on the Denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula" between the North and South of Korea is a shining fruition of the DPRK's anti-nuke peace policy.

The Guinean president and the head of state of Mali met the Korean ambassadors to their countries and the chief of the Korean trade mission paid a courtesy call on the Venezuelan president, says the paper.

Papers come out with commentaries denouncing the South Korean rulers for recently inciting confrontation against the DPRK on purpose, clamouring about "possibilities of its provocation", "strategy of communisation" and "camouflaged peace offensive".

The South Korean puppets are scheming to purchase from France one billion franc's worth of Mistral missiles, says the press.

Carried in NODONG SINMUN is an article refuting No Tae-u's recent shameless talk that he has honored his "commitments" before the people.

Seen in the paper is a statement made to the press by the secretary of the Korean Democratic Lawyers Association

denouncing Japan's past criminal act in drafting many Korean women as "comfort women" for the aggression troops.

NODONG SINMUN informs the readers that the prime minister of Bangladesh called for economic independence and Nelson Mandela called for the establishment of a democratic regime and Mexico protested against the U.S. wreckage of environment.

Papers give an account of a meeting of state heads of the Commonwealth member-countries.

NODONG SINMUN introduces economic successes in Vietnam, Thailand, Guyana, India, Nepal and Venezuela.

An article of the paper deals with the vigorous struggle to defend the country, revolution and socialism in Cuba.

South Korea

Simultaneous Checks on U.S., North Sites Proposed

SK2301131492 Seoul YONHAP in English 1257 GMT
23 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 23 (YONHAP)—The Governments of South Korea and the United States are considering proposing a simultaneous inspection of North Korean nuclear facilities at Yongbyon and an American air base in Kunsan in an effort to draw an early conclusion to the nuclear problem involving North Korea, it was learned here Thursday.

Officials of the two countries are studying a plan to get the inspection done on an inter-Korean agreement rather than relying on the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)'s initiative in view that an international inspection might take much time for it to be realized in actuality, a government official here said.

The idea of opening an American air base in South Korea in return for inspecting Yongbyon's nuclear facilities instead of a military facility is a departure from the previous South Korean and U.S. position that a same number of military facilities as well as civilian nuclear facilities on either side should be examined simultaneously.

North Korea has persistently been opposed to opening its military facilities among all. Officials of South and North Korea, even when concluding a declaration on a nuclear-free Korean peninsula on Dec. 31, failed to discuss in detail measures to realize Seoul's proposal for a simultaneous inspection of nuclear facilities in both Koreas, the official said.

The official predicted that South and North Korea might try to reach a compromise by agreeing to conducting simultaneous inspection on certain civilian nuclear and military facilities designated by each other.

The Governments of South Korea and the United States are also known to be examining a proposal that the simultaneous inspection be implemented simultaneously with the formation of an inter-Korean nuclear control committee.

U.S. Gives North Deadline for Nuclear Inspection

SK2301104592 Seoul YONHAP in English 1031 GMT 23 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 23 (YONHAP)—The United States set a deadline to North Korea on when it should accept outside or inter-Korean inspection of nuclear facilities, an official here said Thursday.

The message was delivered during North Korean-U.S. vice ministerial contact in New York Wednesday, he said. U.S. Undersecretary of State Arnold Kanter met with North Korean Workers' Party Secretary for International Affairs Kim Yong-sun for almost six hours.

U.S. officials notifying South Korea of the results said they relayed all they needed to say to North Korea. The United States made clear that solution of North Korean nuclear problem can no longer be delayed, the official here said.

It was not known what the U.S. deadline was, but Washington is reportedly demanding that inspection on North Korea must be performed before April.

Kanter urged North Korea to take concrete action in implementing the inter-Korean declaration for nuclear-free Korean peninsula, he said.

Without such action, there can be no improvement in Pyongyang-Washington relations, Kanter was quoted as saying in the meeting.

There was no agreement to hold another high-level talk, the official said. The United States is likely to keep the contacts at the current counselor-level talks in Beijing, he said.

Russian 'Roving Ambassador' Visits Pyongyang

Says North To Sign Nuclear Accord

SK2201092292 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0831 GMT 22 Jan 92

[Text] According to TASS in Moscow, Russia's roving ambassador Igor Rogachev, who is now visiting Pyongyang, revealed today that North Korea has a firm intention to sign the nuclear safeguards accord with the International Atomic Energy Agency. Ambassador Rogachev, who is in the DPRK in the capacity of Yeltsin's emissary to the consultation between Russia and North Korea, said that North Korea's signing of the nuclear safeguards accord indicates important progress toward detente on the Korea peninsula along with mutual surveillance of the South and the North's nuclear substances.

Seeks To Revise Treaty

SK1801234192 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 2200 GMT 18 Jan 92

[YONHAP report from Moscow]

[Text] A Western diplomatic source in Moscow revealed that Russian Ambassador Rogachev, who is visiting Pyongyang as a special envoy of the Russian president, is holding negotiations with North Korean leaders to revise the treaty on friendship and cooperation between North Korea and the Soviet Union [as heard].

This source, who is well-informed on the North Korean situation, said on 18 January that Rogachev will try to persuade North Korea of the inevitability of revising the treaty. The treaty, which was concluded during the cold war, contains much that does not conform with the current situation. In particular, the article on military affairs stipulating that one side will automatically intervene on behalf of the other side if a war breaks out is in reality impossible to implement.

Reports Continue on North, South Contacts

DPRK Premier Names Delegates

SK2101033492 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0300 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Text] In a telephone message today to Prime Minister Chong Won-sik, North Korean Premier Yon Hyong-muk said that he would send delegates Choe U-chin and Kim Yong-chol to a contact between the South and North delegates scheduled for 23 January at Panmunjom for discussing issues related to establishing and running subcommittees in connection with the implementation of the basic agreement.

Prime Minister Chong Won-sik proposed last 15 January to North Korean Premier Yon Hyong-muk to hold a contact of delegates on 23 January to discuss issues related to effecting the basic agreement.

Delegation Visits Panmunjom

SK2301033792 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0300 GMT 23 Jan 92

[Text] Both sides of the North and the South held a contact between delegates in the House of Peace, our side's area in Panmunjom, this morning. They discussed procedural measures of the basic agreement which will come into effect at the high-level talks to be held in Pyongyang in February.

They discussed and exchanged both sides' opinions over the issue of organizing and operating a North-South political subcommittee and a North-South cooperation and exchanges subcommittee, which are expected to be formed within one month after the agreement comes into effect.

Yim Tong-won, vice minister of the Unification Board, said that because both sides of the North and the South narrowed their opinions to form three subcommittees after the agreement comes into effect, both sides will easily reach an agreement on the issue of procedural measures of the basic agreement.

North, South Agree on Subcommittees

*SK2301090192 Seoul YONHAP in English 0627 GMT
23 Jan 92*

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 23 (YONHAP)—South and North Korea agreed in principle Thursday to form three subcommittees—political, military and exchange-cooperation—simultaneously with effectuation of the inter-Korean agreement on reconciliation, nonaggression, exchanges and cooperation on Feb. 19.

It was earlier agreed the panels would be formed within one month of the historic agreement taking effect Feb. 19, during the sixth inter-Korean prime ministers' talks.

In a meeting at the truce village of Panmunjom, the South suggested each of the subcommittees have seven members from each side, including a delegate to the prime ministers' talks, and be headed jointly by both delegates.

Led by Vice National Unification Minister Yim Tong-won, the South Korean delegation also suggested that each subcommittee meet once a month and hold special sessions as agreed by both sides.

The South proposed establishing a liaison office at an early date. It was earlier agreed to set up a liaison office within three months of effectuation of the inter-Korean agreement.

The South also suggested starting negotiations on formation and operation of the liaison office and formation of a joint committee on nuclear control in accordance with the inter-Korean declaration for a non-nuclear Korean peninsula late last year.

Roving ambassador Choe U-chin headed the northern delegation.

The sides agreed to continue their negotiations in a second contact at Panmunjom on Jan. 29.

Relief Laws for North Defectors Introduced

*SK2201061992 Seoul YONHAP in English 0525 GMT
22 Jan 92*

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 22 (YONHAP)—South Korea expects tens of thousands of North Korean defectors due to the thaw in relations between Seoul and Pyongyang, and has decided to ensure their welfare with special legislation, a highly placed Health and Social Welfare Ministry official said Wednesday.

He predicted tens of thousands of North Koreans would visit South Korea and decline to return home, settling in South Korea, if inter-Korean human exchanges were activated.

"So, to protect the livelihood of these people, the government has decided to enact a social relief bill this year," he said on condition of anonymity.

Existing laws could not satisfy the projected relief program because it would cost a great deal of money—about 10 billion won to help 50,000 North Koreans resettle here.

The legislation would cover not only North Koreans but victims of natural disaster, refugees and the underprivileged, he said.

The government applied the livelihood protection act or disaster relief act in emergency relief to support Vietnamese boat people or Koreans fleeing Kuwait during the Gulf war.

Controversy Continues Over 'Comfort Girls' Issue

'Phone-In' Shows Greater Numbers

*OW2201105992 Tokyo KYODO in English 0842 GMT
22 Jan 92*

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 22 KYODO—A phone-in organized by a South Korean citizens' group led to the discovery of 25 more former "comfort women" who were forced to work at frontline brothels for the Japanese Army during World War II, the group said Wednesday.

Members of the group, known as the Council for Dealing With Comfort Girls, told a press conference in Seoul this was in addition to seven women the group already knew of.

The group held its phone-in from January 14 to 21.

Members said that 14 of the 25 callers were former "comfort women," while the remaining calls came from family members or relatives of the women.

The committee is accepting applications for compensation and intends to take up the issue at the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

The phone-in also received calls from 33 persons forcibly conscripted as labor while it was not clear whether a further 31 callers were conscripted as "comfort women" or as laborers.

Most of the former "comfort women" have lived in poverty since the war. Many who married were later divorced and others chose to remain single.

Members of the council later marched on the Japanese Embassy in Seoul.

Government To Seek Compensation

SK2201063192 Seoul YONHAP in English 0600 GMT
22 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 22 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea is scouring international law for help in winning compensation from Japan for Korean women forcibly mobilized as laborers and sex slaves for Japanese soldiers during World War II, officials said Wednesday.

The Foreign Ministry's Treaties Bureau has nearly completed a report on the legal aspects of the issue, they said. "The report includes a close study of precedents in international law," an official said.

"This does not mean that we are ready to take the matter to the International Court of Justice, but we are gathering all the information so as not to neglect any possible means of settlement," he said.

"The South Korea-Japan Treaty signed in 1965 at the time of diplomatic normalization does not cover the women victims. In strictly legal terms, there has been a fundamental change in circumstances since the treaty," he said.

Japan paid Korea 300 million U.S. dollars as compensation for Korean men enlisted in the Japanese Army when it signed the 1965 treaty. Chief cabinet secretary Koichi Kato claims the treaty concluded all government-level compensation and that the women victims should seek reparations through the civilian courts.

It is believed anywhere between 100,000 to 200,000 Korean women, some as young as 12, were mobilized as labor and sex slaves by the Japanese Army during the war.

Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa has apologized for inflicting "unbearable suffering" on the Korean people but failed to pacify the public, who demand compensation for the women.

A working-level committee on "chungshindae," the name given to the comfort women, holds its first meeting Friday [24 January] headed by Kim Sok-u, director-general of the Foreign Ministry's Asian Affairs Bureau.

The committee is expected to set up report centers nationwide next month to collect information on chungshindae, the officials said.

"Information will be given on a strictly voluntary basis to protect the privacy of the victims, but the government hopes that people who served as local ward officials during the war will come forward and tell what they know," another official said.

The committee is to instruct local governments and schools to search for documents on chungshindae.

Official Says Japan Sells 'Outdated' Technologies

SK2201055992 Seoul YONHAP in English 0508 GMT
22 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 22 (YONHAP)—Japan sells outdated technologies such as simple applied production skills to Korea and refuses to let it have high-tech items, sources at the Trade and Industry Ministry said Wednesday.

Even the low technologies were sold mainly to medium- and small-sized enterprises that lack research and development abilities, according to the sources.

Japan sold Korea 3,700 technologies, accounting for 50.7 percent of Korea's skill purchases and topping the list in the number of skill transfers since 1962, and the United States sold it 1,928.

Royalties paid by Korea to Japan were 1.75 billion U.S. dollars during that period, compared with 2.6 billion dollars paid to the United States in return for technologies, proving that Japan was providing Korea with cheap and low technologies, they said.

Among 176 technologies Korea bought from Japan on ordinary terms of royalty payment in 1990, only two were expensive skills costing 5 percent of earnings. Among 125 technologies purchased from the United States, 14 were such skills, a Ministry official said.

Most of the technologies Japan sold Korea recently were simple production skills that could be applied during a short period of time, he said.

Halt to PRC Blackmarket Purchases Ordered

SK2101043992 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
19 Jan 92 p 3

[Text] The Prime Minister's Office yesterday ordered the Transportation Ministry to take punitive steps against several travel agencies which have engaged in blackmarketing purchase coupons for Japanese electric goods to ethnic Koreans in China visiting here.

According to the premier's office, Kumhwa, Miju World and several other travel agencies sold the coupons issued by the Chinese Council for Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT) to the home visitors in collusion with travel agencies in Hong Kong.

With the coupons, the Korean-Chinese can purchase Japanese electronic and electronic goods and CCPIT-Chinese can purchase Japanese electronic and electric goods at CCPIT-designated shops after they return to China. Officials said it is hard for ordinary residents in China to obtain such purchase coupons.

The Korean travel agencies traded the coupons worth 36 million U.S. dollars last year, the office said.

They bought the coupons from their counterparts in Hong Kong.

To pay for the coupons, the agencies used to remit less than 10,000 dollars at a time to avoid complex procedures required when they send 10,000 dollars or more, the office said.

The office said the travel agencies remitted over 30 million U.S. dollars to Hong Kong last year.

They took commissions through the trade of coupons which are popular among visitors from China.

The premier's office ordered the Transportation Ministry to consider revoking the business licenses of the travel agencies.

The office also instructed the Finance Ministry to revise the current Foreign Exchange Law which enables a business entity to remit less than 10,000 dollars freely only with the issuance of a certificate of out-of-trade foreign exchange payment.

Cabinet Approves Trade, Nuclear-Free Accords

*SK2301025092 Seoul YONHAP in English 0233 GMT
23 Jan 92*

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 23 (YONHAP)—The South Korean cabinet approved Thursday two agreements signed Dec. 31, one between Seoul and Beijing on trade, and the other between Seoul and Pyongyang on a nuclear-free Korean peninsula.

The Korea-China trade agreement will take effect Feb. 1 and the inter-Korean agreement on Feb. 19.

The trade agreement confers most-favored nation (MFN) status on Seoul and Beijing. It abolishes 5 percent to 30 percent discriminatory tariffs on South Korean products, blamed by trade officials here for the trade imbalance in China's favor.

Korea's trade deficit with China was estimated to be 1.1 billion U.S. dollars at the end of 1991 on 2.37 billion dollars of exports and 3.47 billion dollars of imports.

The six-article agreement on a non-nuclear Korea says the two Koreas will not possess or manufacture nuclear weapons and will not own nuclear reprocessing and uranium enrichment facilities.

The agreement also calls for simultaneous pilot inspection of civilian and military installations designated by other side.

China May Allow ROK National Flag at Show

*SK2301095392 Seoul YONHAP in English 0533 GMT
23 Jan 92*

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 23 (YONHAP)—China is expected to allow South Korea to use its official name, the Republic of Korea, and to display its national flag at a made-in-Korea goods show in Beijing in May, Trade and Industry Ministry officials said Thursday.

The officials said the Korean Government was studying taking commensurate measures for Chinese firms at exhibitions in Korea.

The China International Exhibition Center, where Korea plans to hold the exhibition for five days from May 15, notified Seoul in a letter to the Korea Trade Promotion Corp. recently that the words "Republic of Korea" and Korea's national flag could be used in the title of the fair.

Identification of goods from Korea is currently limited to the acronym "ROK" and the national flag on samples and pamphlets at exhibitions in China, and Seoul gives Chinese goods similar treatment.

The officials said China's decision hinted at improvement of bilateral ties. Following the Dec. 31 signing of a bilateral trade agreement, the decision meant a step toward normalizing trade and economic relations between the two countries, they said.

In the absence of diplomatic relations, the two countries have trade representative offices in each other's capital.

The fair in Beijing will feature textiles, electronic apparatus, telecommunications equipment, semiconductors, steel products and machinery produced by a score of Korean firms.

It will be followed by a week-long exposition of made-in-China items at the Korea exhibition center in Seoul from May 26 sponsored by the China Chamber of International Commerce.

Daewoo Group To Build Joint Venture in Beijing

*SK1801061692 Seoul YONHAP in English 0554 GMT
18 Jan 92*

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 18 (YONHAP)—Daewoo Group is taking part in a joint-venture project to build a complex commercial center in Beijing set for completion in May, government sources revealed Saturday.

Daewoo has asked the Bank of Korea for approval to invest 19.3 million U.S. dollars in the project, which was started by German enterprises and China.

The deliberation committee for overseas investment projects, which comprises five ministries and agencies including the Finance Ministry, reviewed Daewoo's application. The Foreign Ministry remains undecided on the project, said to be the last investment in China by a Korean enterprise, the sources said.

The 273 million-dollar project was started in October 1988 and by the German businesses and several Chinese commercial district development corporations.

Daewoo wants to put up 19.3 million dollars, increasing the capitalisation from 58 million to 77.3 million dollars, in exchange for 25 percent of the equity.

The center is to contain a 582-room hotel, a department store, restaurants, underground parking and apartments.

PRC Science Delegation Arrives for Visit*SK2001121892 Seoul YONHAP in English 1202 GMT
20 Jan 92*

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 20 (YONHAP)—A six-men delegation of the national Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) arrived in Seoul Monday for a nine-day working visit aimed at discussing cooperation with South Korea in the basic science sector.

The visit of the delegation, headed by NSFC President Zhang Cunhao, was made as a follow-up to an agreement on cooperation in science and technology reached between the Korea Science and Engineering Foundation and two Chinese organizations—the NSFC and the Chinese Academy of Sciences in May last year.

Zhang and his party will discuss with their South Korean counterparts exchanges between leading scientific research centers of the two countries, exchanges of information and cooperative projects in areas of common interest and measures to support research in subjects of international concern. They will also sign an accord on cooperative projects.

The Chinese officials will visit the production lines of Samsung Electronics Co. plants, the Korea Standard Research Institute, Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology, and the Korea Institute of Science and Technology before returning home on Jan. 28.

Technology Cooperation Talks Set With Malaysia*SK1701090592 Seoul YONHAP in English 0851 GMT
17 Jan 92*

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 17 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea and Malaysia will hold their fifth round of technology cooperation talks in Seoul on Monday and Tuesday [20 and 21 January, respectively], the Foreign Ministry said Friday.

Yi Chong-mu, director-general of the Ministry's International Trade Bureau, will lead the Korean delegation and his opposite number will be Dato Mahmud bin Taib [name as received], director-general of the Malaysian Public Service Department.

The two sides will discuss exchange programs for industrial technology trainees, academic and technology students and government officials, the Ministry said.

Stranded Burmese Sailors Wait for Compensation*SK2001085792 Seoul YONHAP in English 0841 GMT
20 Jan 92*

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 20 (YONHAP)—Bankruptcy has stranded 14 Burmese sailors in a western Korean port for over three months as they wait for their pay, the Kunsan office of the Korea Maritime and Port Administration said Monday.

Their ship, the 1,569-ton Panamanian-flag Ocean Drama, put in at Kunsan Oct. 2, shortly before Pacific Shipping Co., the owner of the vessel, went bankrupt.

Their wages, ranging between 200 U.S. dollars a month and 800 dollars a month, have been not paid to the 14 Burmese and seven Korean crewmen since August 1991.

Creditors applied to a local court in November for the sale of Pacific's ships to satisfy the firm's debts.

Reports on Cooperation, Ties With Vietnam**Ministry Approves KAL Charter***SK2101092292 Seoul YONHAP in English 0832 GMT
21 Jan 92*

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 21 (YONHAP)—The Transportation Ministry on Tuesday approved an application by Korean Air (KAL) for a charter flight between Seoul and Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam on Jan. 31.

A KAL plane will carry Vietnamese-Americans from the United States on a visit to their homeland. Earlier, the ministry approved a similar application by Asiana Airlines.

On Tuesday, the ministry also granted permission to Asiana for charter flights on Jan. 26 and Jan. 31 between Tianjin, China, and Seoul to carry ethnic Koreans for lunar new year's holiday visits.

The ministry said it will approve future applications for charter flights by the nation's two airlines whenever there is passenger demand, even if the destinations are in the countries with which South Korea has no diplomatic ties.

Consortium Bids on Oil Contract*SK1701034892 Seoul YONHAP in English 0217 GMT
17 Jan 92*

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 17 (YONHAP)—Energy and Resources Minister Chin Nyom left for Vietnam Friday morning to help a South Korean consortium win the bidding for an oil drilling project, a Ministry spokesman said.

Staying until Jan. 23, Chin will meet with high-ranking officials of Vietsovpetro, a Vietnam-Russia joint venture with the title to the undersea oil field "Bigbear" located 230 kilometers southeast of Vung Tau near Ho Chi Minh City.

Bigbear has oil reserves estimated at between 750 million and 1 billion barrels, he said.

Vietsovpetro held preliminary international bidding in December to sell 40 percent of its share in preparation for the project, and selected a Korean consortium and Marubeni and Mitsui of Japan as candidates.

Members of the consortium are Korea Petroleum Development Corp., Hyundai, Samsung, Lucky-Goldstar, Ssangyong, Daesung, Daewoo and Samwhan. Each have a 5-percent stake, he said.

If the consortium wins the bidding, it will put up 580 million U.S. dollars in 1992-1993 for initial production and 770 million dollars for sales in 1994-1998.

An industry source said the consortium could import about 60,000 barrels of oil if production reached 200,000 barrels a day. It would be the largest oil-extraction project ever by a Korean company, the source said.

The Vietnamese Government plans to decide the winner in the first half of the year and persuade Japan to actively participate in the project.

The Japanese Government reportedly sent its foreign minister and high-ranking government and business officials carrying with them a proposal for an economic aid package of 2 billion dollars.

Joint Venture Set Up in Ho Chi Minh

SK1701064492 Seoul YONHAP in English 0512 GMT
17 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 17 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea has begun to allow companies to make direct investment in Vietnam for the first time since 1975, when South Vietnam was communized.

Hanjoo Corp., a textile maker, will soon set up a joint-venture company with the state-run Vietnamese textile firm Vicotex in Ho Chi Minh City, the Finance Ministry said Friday.

Hanjoo will invest 390,000 U.S. dollars in establishing the joint venture textile and clothing company, to be called Hanjoo Vietthang Co., with an equity ratio of 59-to-41 and all products will be sold in Europe, it said.

Until now, Korean companies have advanced into Vietnam, with which South Korea has no formal ties, only as sub-contractors.

Extradition Treaty With Brazil Initialed

SK2201083892 Seoul YONHAP in English 0621 GMT
22 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 22 (yonhap)—South Korea and Brazil initialed an extradition treaty Wednesday that includes fiscal offenders as extraditable criminals.

Yi Chang-ho, director-general of the Korean Foreign Ministry's Treaties Bureau, initialed the treaty with Fernando Fontoura, visiting head of the Brazilian Foreign Ministry's Consular and Juridical Department.

The treaty covers offenders punishable with one-year or longer imprisonment by the laws of the two countries. It

also covers offenders of a fiscal character, such as taxation, customs duties and foreign exchange controls.

Political offenders are excluded, except those guilty of attacking or murdering a head of state and terrorists.

Korea and Brazil will formally sign the treaty in the first half of this year, according to officials. They will meet in Brazil this year to conclude a mutual legal assistance treaty, they said.

Korea's first extradition agreement was signed with Australia in September 1990, and it initialed one with Canada last October.

French Company Signs Contract To Sell Missiles

SK2301104292 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean
22 Jan 92 p 2

[AFP and YONHAP from Paris]

[Text] On 21 January Noel Forgeard, president of the French weapons and electronic products company Matra-Defense-Space, said that his company had signed a \$185 million contract with the ROK for Mistral anti-aircraft missiles.

Korea has been developing plans to build a three-phased short-range anti-aircraft missile system. Importing these missiles is the first stage in carrying out the plans. Korea is expected to import another \$552 million in missiles in four or five years.

If this French company receives the contract to supply missiles to the ROK for its second and third stages of its plan, the ROK will possess the most Mistral missiles of any country.

DLP Views Candidates for Parliamentary Elections

SK2301001992 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
23 Jan 92 p 2

[Text] The ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] has received a total of 719 applications for 237 tickets to the March parliamentary elections.

According to the tally released at the end of the five-day registration, the total figure included 26 on a "secret" list.

In terms of the competition rate, North Kyongsang province stands first with 5:1, followed by South Kyongsang province with 3.8:1. In the meantime, the rate in Cholla province, the power base of opposition leader Kim Tae-chung, plummeted to 1.7:1.

In the 1988 general elections, victory in all 32 electoral districts in the Cholla provinces went to the opposition party led by Kim.

The constituency with a record high contending rate of 11:1 was Kochang, South Kyongsang province, whose

ticket was left up for grabs since the death of Rep. Kim Tong-yong, former state minister for political affairs, last year.

To the contrary, only one application was filed in 66 districts. Choe Yong-chol, special presidential aide for political affairs, who heads the local chapter in Mokpo, the home town of Kim Tae-chung, did not file an application. Speculation is in the air that Choe is assured of a proportional representative seat.

Five incumbent aides to President No Tae-u applied for nominations. They are Kim Yong-il (Kimhae), Im Chae-kil (Yongi), Kwak Sun-chol (Songpa-B, Seoul), Yi Yang-hi (Taejon East-A), Kim Hyon-tong (Chongsong-Yongdok).

In Unpyong-B, Seoul, applications were filed by Vice House Speaker Kim Chae-kwang and Reps. Pak Chong-yol and Kim Chang-suk. Rumors have it that Vice Speaker Kim has conveyed a message to DLP executive chairman Kim Yong-sam that he will cede the seat to Pak who was elected under the proportional representative system.

It is said that Yi Song-mu, vice chairman of the Pongmyong Group, made a secret application for the ticket of Munkyeong-Chomchon, North Kyongsang province, to contest against Rep. Sin Yung-kuk, while Ho Hwa-pyong, former presidential aide, is seeking the ticket of Pohang against Rep. Yi Chin-u.

Among staunch followers of ex-president Chon Tu-hwan, erstwhile army chief of staff Pak Hui-to will challenge Rep. Sin Chae-ki in Changnyong, South Kyongsang province. Pak met with Kim Yong-sam at Kim's house in Sangdo-tong Tuesday.

Former defense security commander Ko Myong-sung also met with Kim Yong-sam last Saturday. Ko was reportedly promised a proportional representative seat.

There are 12 constituencies where lawmakers elected through a popular vote are pitted against those elected under the proportional representative format.

They include Kongju (Yun Chae-ki vs. Chong Suk-mo), Talsong-Koryong (Ku Cha-chun vs. Kim Chong-ki), Taejon West-Yusong (Pak Chong-sun vs. Choe Sang-chin) and Yangpyong-Kapyong (Kim Yong-son vs. An Chan-hui).

DLP Lawmaker Bids for Presidential Nomination

SK2301061692 Seoul YONHAP in English 0513 GMT 23 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 23 (YONHAP)—Ruling party lawmaker Yi Chong-chan indicated Thursday he intends to seek his party's nomination for president.

The first stage in becoming the Democratic Liberal Party's candidate would be public judgment through this spring's general elections, the second stage would be to

announce his candidacy and the third stage would be to win the nomination in a national convention, Yi said in a breakfast lecture.

"I have agreed on these three steps with other lawmakers who share my views," he said.

The 55-year-old National Assemblyman represents Seoul's important Chongro constituency and is regarded a major rival for the nomination of ruling party Executive Chairman Kim Yong-sam.

In other political news, Rep. Pak Chan-chong has said he is leaving the Saehan Party to form a political party of his own.

Its members will be drawn from the political reform group that Pak leads and it will be named after the group, according to his aides. Inauguration is expected in mid-February.

Pak joined hands with former professor Kim Tong-kil to launch the Saehan Party, but declared he was cutting ties when Kim began talking about a merger with the Unification National Party, founded by Hyundai Group owner Chong Chu-yong.

Kim had broken his promise not to link up with people from "the Fifth Republic" (the government of former President Chon Tu-hwan) or Chong's party, Pak charged.

"My political reform group cannot cooperate with a tycoon's party. Unless Kim clarifies his position before Saturday, I will seek to establish a separate party," he said.

Hyundai Workers To Resume Normal Operations

SK2301061092 Seoul YONHAP in English 0506 GMT 23 Jan 92

[Text] Ulsan, Jan. 23 (YONHAP)—More than 10,000 managers and workers including 4,900 labor union members reported to work at Hyundai Motor Co. Thursday to prepare for the resumption of normal operation from next Monday.

The workers cleaned up the compound and prepared to test-run machinery at the nation's largest automaker, stopped by a week-long occupation by thousands of militant unionists who had erected barricades with new automobiles and inflammable materials, blocking the 13 main entrances in defiance of the company lockout.

The union workers have destroyed a computerized identification checking system and other facilities before they left the complex late Tuesday night, hours before more than 10,000 police troops were to storm the compound to evict them.

As 3,700 managers, 2,000 section chiefs and heads of work groups and 4,900 workers worked Thursday, the company sent out representatives to the homes of union

workers to persuade workers who refused to report to work, company officials said.

The company plans to continue restoration works until Friday before lifting its order of work suspension on Saturday and hold a rally attended by 20,000 workers to urge the resumption of normal production from Jan. 27.

The company also announced Thursday that it has suffered losses amounting to 4.4 billion won as a result of the labor dispute that started on Dec. 17 and culminated in the occupation of the plants Jan. 14. The losses included 1,258 new cars, 340 company vehicles and 750 million won worth of auto parts.

Police, meanwhile, said they plan to withdraw all but essential manpower to help control continuing street demonstrations by union workers.

Labor Dispute Disrupts Production at Kia Motors

SK2301022792 Seoul YONHAP in English 0143 GMT
23 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 23 (YONHAP)—A labor dispute at Kia machine tools in Changwon, South Kyongsang Province, has partly halted production of cars by Kia Motor Co., industry sources said Thursday.

Union Workers at the automaker's main parts supplier, a subsidiary of Kia Motor Co., are calling for the wage gap between them and workers at the parent company to be narrowed, according to the sources.

"Kia Motor has difficulty putting out Ceres trucks, Prides and Bestas due to a lack of parts such as transmissions and axles, which are manufactured by Kia machine tools," a company official said.

"We will lose 100 cars a day on the production lines from Thursday, and if the dispute continues the daily loss will amount to 400 vehicles from next week," he said.

Kia machine tools union members voted for a go-slow Tuesday, causing the complete stoppage of parts production.

Technology Transfer Royalty Payments Up

SK1701065292 Seoul YONHAP in English 0543 GMT
17 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 17 (YONHAP)—South Korea paid 822 million U.S. dollars in technology transfer royalties between January and September last year, with 297 million dollars, or 36.1 percent, of the total going to Japan, officials said Friday.

The figure is a nearly 10-percent increase from the same period of 1990. Japan and the United States took 84.1 percent of Korea's technology royalties, up from 76.5 percent.

Payment to Japan jumped 36.2 percent over same period in 1990 and Japan's share of Korea's technology royalties expanded 7 percent.

The United States took 394 million dollars, 11.6 percent more than it did in same period in 1990. Its portion grew 0.6 percent.

In contrast, Germany saw an actual decrease of 10 million dollars and royalties to France were unchanged at 22 million dollars.

Japanese investment in Korea, a primary channel for technology transfer, decreased in number of cases and in dollar figures.

The 97 cases represented 39.9 percent of total foreign investment in Korea, marking a 7.5-percent decrease. In dollar figures, Japan's input was 189.9 million dollars, 15 percent of the total. This is a diminishment of 14.4 percent from 1990.

Inmarsat To Upgrade Communications Services

SK1701080892 Seoul YONHAP in English 0645 GMT
17 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 17 (YONHAP)—The International Maritime Satellite Organization (Inmarsat) will offer upgraded telephone, facsimile, and telex services between ships in the Pacific and ships and land stations from Jan. 19, Korea Telecom announced Friday.

According to state-run Korea Telecom, the better service was made possible when Inmarsat replaced the MCS-D satellite over the Pacific above the equator with the second-generation satellite Inmarsat-2 F3.

South Korea became the fifth Pacific-rim nation in March last year to be able to communicate through the inmarsat satellite when it completed the construction of a station at Kumsan in South Chungchong Province, telecom officials said.

They said the quality of communication would be improved considerably as the new satellite service offers 50 circuits, or 18 more than the old satellite, whose service has deteriorated as it approached the end of its lifespan.

The Kumsan station has five telephone circuits and 10 telex circuits, with which it can directly reach any ship in the Pacific, the officials said. The station can also reach registered ships in the Indian and Atlantic Oceans through relaying stations.

As of Dec. 31, 1991, there are some 16,000 ships, including 151 Korean vessels, using the maritime satellite communications system, the officials said.

Since the automatic telephone dialing system was introduced, an average 2,709 telephone calls were made from Korea to ships in the three oceans, up from 833 calls a month in 1990. Especially calls from Korea to ships in

the Pacific more than quadrupled to 1,797 from 444 calls a month in 1990, the officials said.

Oil Refineries Plan To Suspend Operations

*SK2301070492 Seoul YONHAP in English 0548 GMT
23 Jan 92*

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 23 (YONHAP)—South Korea's oil refineries must curtail or suspend operations soon because the government has slapped a limit on crude oil imports and they have almost used up their quotas for the month, industry sources said Thursday.

Yukong Ltd., Ssangyong Oil Refining Co. and Kyong In Energy Co. have consumed most of the crude that was allotted them by the government for January and will have to cut back their operations or suspend them within a few days unless they received additional allocations, the sources said.

The government began limiting imports of crude last month in order to reduce the growing trade deficit.

On Tuesday, Yukong had enough oil for five days of refining. It was allotted 15.52 million barrels by the government, 1.59 million barrels less than it wanted, and has refined over 540,000 barrels a day.

Ssangyong has used 4.6 million of the 6 million barrels the government allocated, refining 290,000 barrels a day on average.

As Ssangyong had only 1.4 million barrels left on Tuesday, enough for four days, it will have to suspend operations Sunday, according to the sources.

Kyong In Energy, which was given a quota of 4.06 million barrels, has reduced its operation to 150,000 barrels a day as its oil is expected to be consumed by the end of this month.

Burma

Saw Maung: Arakan Muslim Situation 'No Problem'

BK2101161192 Rangoon Burma Television Network
in Burmese 1330 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Speech by Senior General Saw Maung, chairman of the State Law and Order Restoration Council, SLORC, and commander-in-chief of the defense forces, at a coordination meeting between SLORC and state and division law and order restoration councils at the army commander-in-chief's operations meeting room in Rangoon on 21 January—recorded—italicized phrases in English]

[Excerpts] I occasionally speak on matters that should be made known. I will say what I have to say briefly. I have spoken previously. Now, also, I will not speak long.

Last time I said: Even if other people are doing the wrong thing, don't you do it, if others are cheating, don't let yourself be cheated, and when you work, work with *thusi puwa wili dida* [caution, perseverance, and wisdom].

There has been no disappearance of a leader in Myanmar [Burma]; there is a leader. I already noted that in an earlier news conference.

I am a member of the Buddhist faith, but I am not a customary Buddhist. At this time, I can see that the people are being overshadowed by greed. They do not speak the truth. I speak the truth. If you speak the truth it is like showing faith [a Burmese proverb].

Today the country is being governed by martial law. Martial law means *no law at all*. That is their saying. If you study Buddhist scripture there is such a thing as a Divine Law. [passage omitted]

In the eyes of the United Nations, this country is known as Myanmar.

There is one matter which no one has noticed. Major General Khin Nyunt has already explained to the heads of departments and organizations about SLORC's disapproval of certain persons, political parties, and organizations. You can find it in the newspapers.

During the Japanese era, in addition to the Imperial Army there was one organization known as Minami Kikan. It is true that the Minami Kikan organization really wanted to give independence to Myanmar.

I would like to talk about our Armed Forces. I once worked as a Central Executive Committee member of the Burma Socialist Program Party. In other words, in the previous government I was defense minister. I was the remaining soldier from that batch. You can call me Kyansittha if you wish. [In colloquial Burmese, "Kyansittha" means the remaining soldier, and is also the name of a famous Burmese king from the Pagan Era.]

I am coolly telling the truth. There are some people who regard what I say as personal attacks; some even talk about it. I have many reports with me.

I would like to tell you about an extreme situation. A historian who holds a doctorate degree says he even likes the Ayegyi [high priests] from the Anawratha era. If you think about it carefully, then you will realise what has become of the situation in Myanmar where Theravada Buddhism flourishes. The people want to be exalted, but where work is concerned they do not work properly.

Broadcasting stations are referring to the Rohingya these days. There is no problem concerning this matter. If you recall the laws, there is the 1982 citizenship law, and any grown-up person will know that the constitutional law of 1974 was promulgated with a national referendum.

Our Armed Forces are responsible for the changes in the one-party system and the socialist economic system. The transformation from the Burma Socialist Program Party to the NUP [National Unity Party] happened on its own accord. Evolution is natural. Do what you have to do courageously. There is nothing to worry about. Political party members and some persons, monks, and members of other religions should also recollect themselves. [passage omitted]

Let foreign broadcasting services, newspapers, and magazines write what they wish; there is no need to worry about them. Once when I met with ASIaweek, I told them *I saved Burma*, but in accordance with today's situation, I should say *I saved Myanmar*, and you must completely crush all insurgents who are engaged in the armed struggle against the state. Transformation from one system and era to another is not easy to achieve in a relatively short time. I have already told you that I am not in a position to foresee the future. [passage omitted]

There is freedom of religion here. If you want to know what type of person I am, I have received words of advice from venerable abbots, all of which are written in a long, thin, yellow book. Read that and you will know. I always work with caution, perseverance, and wisdom. Wisdom does not mean black magic.

'Embassy Official' Denies Camp Death Reports

BK2201125492 Hong Kong AFP in English 1237 GMT
22 Jan 92

[Text] Dhaka, Jan 22 (AFP)—A Burmese Embassy spokesman dismissed as lies Wednesday reports that hundreds of people suffocated to death in concentration camps in Burma.

"We don't have any concentration camps in Burma, a Buddhist country... we have love for everybody and no hatred," an embassy official who requested anonymity told AFP.

Rohingya Muslims fleeing their homes in the Burmese province of Arakan into neighbouring Bangladesh have charged Burmese troops with widespread atrocities.

Newspaper here have quoted the refugees as saying up to 700 Rohingya Muslims suffocated to death in Burmese concentration camps just across the border.

The Burmese Embassy spokesman said the reports were a "blatant lie and rubbish."

The Bengali daily SANGBAD said Burmese troops detained about 3,000 Muslim youths in the past week and crammed them into 10 storehouses in Arakan province. It said 700 of them died in camps in four days.

In the Bangladesh border district of Cox's Bazar, a relief official said Wednesday said that as of January 18 an estimated 25,000 refugees had fled into Bangladesh.

Haradhan Sheel said another 5,000 may have arrived in the last three days.

Unofficial sources have set the figure as high as 60,000.

Sources in Cox's Bazar said the influx of new arrivals in border sub-districts—Teknaf, Ukhia, Ramu and Deochia Palong—appeared to have slowed.

In Deochia Palong camp, 40 families arrived Wednesday, pushing the number of sheltered families there to more than 500, or 2,200 people, they said. Listed families numbered 399 or 1,721 people on January 18.

Officials said the government began Wednesday distributing 100,000 taka (2,700 dollars) cash and 80 metric tonnes of wheat and rice for the refugees.

The refugees claim they are being driven out by Burmese troops, but Rangoon insists its military operations in the border area are aimed at rebel Muslim mojahedin and not the Muslim population as a whole.

Coordination Meeting Held With Regional Bodies

BK2201051192 Rangoon Burma Television Network in Burmese 1330 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Excerpts] A coordination meeting between the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC] and states and regional divisional law and order restoration councils was held at 0930 today in the Operations Meeting Room of the Office of the Commander in Chief of the Defense Services.

Senior General Saw Maung, chairman of the SLORC and commander in chief of the Defense Services attended the meeting and delivered an address. The meeting was attended by Senior General Saw Maung, SLORC chairman and commander in chief of the Defense Services; General Than Shwe, deputy chairman of the SLORC, deputy commander in chief of the Defense Services, and commander in chief of the Army; members of the SLORC; members of the cabinet; the chief justice; the attorney general; the chairman of the Public Service Selection and Training Board; the chief of staff of the Navy; the chief of staff of the Air Force; the regional and divisional commanders; chairmen of the states and divisional law and order restoration councils;

directors general from the Office of the SLORC, the cabinet, the Political Affairs Division of the Foreign Ministry, and the Office of the People's Assembly; members of the Information Committee of the SLORC; the legal advisor to the Office of the SLORC; the legal advisor to the Office of the People's Assembly; and directors and responsible officials from the Defense Ministry.

U Kyaw Aye, director general of the Office of the SLORC, acted as secretary of the meeting. Sen. Gen. Saw Maung, chairman of the SLORC and commander in chief of the Defense Services, delivered an address at the meeting [passage omitted]

When the meeting resumed regional commanders reported on the progress of construction and development projects being implemented and economic development situation in their respective regions. The commanders who presented reports were: Major General Kyaw Ba, chairman of the Kachin State Law and Order Restoration Council and commander of the Northern Command; Maj. Gen. Maung Tint, deputy chairman of the Shan State Law and Order Restoration Council and commander of the Northeast Command; Maj. Gen. Maung Aye, chairman of the Shan State Law and Order Restoration Council and commander of the Eastern Command; Maj. Gen. Soe Myint, the Mon State Law and Order Restoration Council and commander of the Southeast Command; Maj. Gen. Myint Aung, chairman of the Irrawaddy Division Law and Order Restoration Council and commander of the Southwest Command; Maj. Gen. Mya Thin, chairman of the Rakhine State Law and Order Restoration Council and commander of the Western Command; Maj. Gen. Tun Kyi, chairman of the Mandalay Division Law and Order Restoration Council and commander of the Central Command; Maj. Gen. Aye Thaung, chairman of the Pegu Division Law and Order Restoration Council and commander of the Southern Command; Maj. Gen. Kyaw Min, chairman of the Sagaing Division Law and Order Restoration Council and commander of the Northwest Command; Colonel Maung Kyi, chairman of the Kayah State Law and Order Restoration Council and tactical commander the Eastern Command Headquarters; Col. Aung San, chairman of the Karen State Law and Order Restoration Council and tactical commander of the Southeast Command Headquarters; Lieutenant Colonel Maung Cho, chairman of the Chin State Law and Order Restoration Council and tactical commander of Northwest Command Headquarters; and Col. Aung Thaung, chairman of the Magwe Division Law and Order Restoration Council and tactical commander of the Central Command Headquarters.

Next, Maj. Gen. Khin Nyunt, SLORC secretary-1 and Maj. Gen. Tin U, SLORC secretary-2, reported on matters related to the political and economic situation, construction, development, and public service affairs. The meeting ended at 1535.

Government Abolishes Nine Minor Parties

BK2301031492 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese
1330 GMT 22 Jan 92

["Order No. 2/92 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council, dated 22 January 1992"]

[Text] Order abolishing political parties the candidates of which have not been elected and which have only a single central organization without any basic party organizational structure:

1. In accordance with the Political Parties Registration Law, the Commission for Holding Multiparty Democratic General Elections granted the registration of 235 political parties that wished to run in the multiparty democratic general elections.

2. At present there remain only 68 registered political parties as the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC], by issuing orders, had abolished political parties for various reasons, and the Elections Commission had issued announcements on political parties that had been deregistered for various reasons.

3. The Elections Commission, having scrutinized the organizational standing and organizational progress of registered political parties, believes that since these remaining political parties, after being granted registration as political parties, have been engaged in organizational activity for about three years, their organizational standing and organizational progress have reached a reasonable stage of stability. However, it is found on scrutiny that certain political parties have not been able to get their candidates elected and that they have only a single central organization without any basic party organization and party strength. It has been found that their central executive committee has been formed with only four or five members. In some cases, central executive committees are formed with family members and their close friends.

The commission is of the opinion that in implementing a compact and stable democratic system, such political parties should not be allowed to continue to exist.

4. As such, the SLORC, in accordance with the submission of the Elections Commission, has abolished with effect from this day the following political parties that have not been able to have their candidates elected and have only a single central organization without any basic party organization:

- A. Indigenous Race Collaboration Party
- B. Democratic Allies League, DAL
- C. Union People's Future and Democracy Party
- D. Myanmar Naing-ngan [Burma] Democratic People's Power Organization
- E. National Peace and Democracy Party
- F. Union of Myanmar Unity Democracy League, BUDL
- G. National Peace Party
- H. People's Peasants Union, Union of Myanmar
- I. People's Democratic Party

5. This order is to have the force of law.

By the authority vested in me.

Signed: Khin Nyunt, Major General, secretary-1 of the SLORC

Surrender of 14 'Insurgents' Reported

BK2201145792 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese
1330 GMT 22 Jan 92

[Text] People belonging to various insurgent organizations who have come to realize their wrongdoing have been giving up their armed struggle and surrendering at different army camps with arms and ammunition. Accordingly, the following surrenders took place between 23-29 December 1991:

Southeast Military Command: Organizer Kyaw Thein and Sergeant Than Aung of the Karen National Union [KNU] terrorist insurgent organization surrendered together with one BA-63 automatic rifle and two AK-47 assault rifles at Mintha camp. Privates Win Kyaw, Kyaw Win, and Myint Lwin of the ABSDF's [All Burma Students' Democratic Front] 203d Battalion surrendered at Mergui Garrison.

Eastern Military Command: Pvts. Sai Si, Sai Pau, Sai Nan Kyaw, and medics Saw Thet Shein and Khin Maung from the SUA [Shan United Army] terrorist insurgent organization, surrendered together with two M-22 automatic rifles and two carbines at Mong Hsat Garrison. Pvt. Saw Lwe Htoo alias Phillip of the ABSDF's 303d Battalion gave himself up at Loikaw people's police station.

Northern Military Command: Pvts. Maung Maung Naing, Myo Thint, and Maung Ni of the KIA [Kachin Independence Army] terrorist insurgents' 254th Battalion surrendered together with one M-21 automatic rifle and two BA-64 automatic rifles at Sikhangyi outpost.

All together, 14 terrorist insurgents surrendered between 23-29 December. Thus, a total of 28 terrorist insurgents surrendered during December 1991. These people who have come back to the legal fold after realizing the truth and giving up the armed struggle were warmly received by the responsible officials of the camps concerned.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

U.S. Military Presence in ASEAN Region Viewed

BK2201130792 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES
in English 21 Jan 92 p 10

[Editorial: "No Major Threat In Sight"]

[Text] Do we desire a United States military presence in the Asia-Pacific region to defend the area's stability and prevent incidents like the Gulf War?

In general, the leaders of Asean object to a strong, direct U.S. military presence here. But they have acknowledged a need for a U.S. presence here as shown by the leaders' acceptance of Singapore's plan to allow American aircraft to use the base there and have access to its military facilities. Moreover, Malaysia and Indonesia are also considering offering their bases and facilities.

Accepting a U.S. military presence is a farsighted decision by Asean leaders. It shows that their idea of security is not conservative nor narrow. The concept itself is broader than military concerns. Defence Minister Datuk Sri Mohamed Najib Razak said: "The question of security should not be viewed from a narrow perspective, such as touching on conflicts, but should be linked to the question of the well-being as well as the social and economic development of the region."

With the end of the Cold War, the leaders feel that conventional security pacts are an anachronism. This clearly invites a redefinition of the security relationship between America and Asean. Any military mission in the post-Cold War era should only be directed towards preserving a non-threatening climate in the region, one in which no nation is seen to threaten another. Any shift in the U.S.-Asean security relationship should be based on this understanding.

It is true that Asean, as a regional group, with its concept of a Zone of Peace, Freedom and neutrality (Zopfan), has enhanced regional security through many discussions on regional issues. It has successfully functioned as a de facto counterweight to the Indochina bloc during the years when security threats were emanating from this bloc. As a mechanism for moderating intra-Asean tensions and threat perceptions, it has also been successful. All these without a formal defense alliance like the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (Nato).

There is no need for an Asean military pact to further strengthen regional security. As the Defence Minister pointed out, the best way to do it is through bilateral cooperation. This means more consultative and joint mechanisms to focus on issues such as international dadah [illegal drug] trafficking, regional disaster management and territorial demarcation disputes. Clearly, Asean is a stabilising force in the Asia-Pacific region and is poised to play a greater role.

The future may not hold threats like Kuwait's conquest, but security and destabilisation threats may emerge in new forms. The possibility of tension developing among China, Vietnam, Philippines, Taiwan and Malaysia over claims to the Spratly Islands in the South China Sea (believed to be rich in underwater deposits of oil and gas) is real. Then there is the fear of Japan, a nascent military power, becoming a major Asia-Pacific military power. Having an American military presence in the region will

defuse any Japanese anxiety that it must protect its maritime trade routes and access to the oil in the Gulf.

Yes, Asean values the presence of the U.S. military as a way of contributing towards a greater framework of co-operative peace, but there is no need, at least for now, for any larger or more formal arrangement.

SRV Delegation Continues Working Visit 23 Jan

Minister Views Refugee Repatriation

BK2301085092 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English
0811 GMT 23 Jan 92

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Jan 23 (OANA-BERNAMA)—The 13,000 Vietnamese boat people still in Malaysian transit camps are free to return home without facing any persecution, Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam said here Thursday.

We have adopted a humanitarian policy to encourage more of our people irrespective of whether they are economic or political refugees to return, he told a press conference at the end of a four-day official visit to Malaysia by Vietnamese Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet. He said his government was seeking Malaysia's cooperation to ensure their safe return.

Vietnam signed a memorandum of understanding with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in 1988 pledging that it would not persecute any returning boat people. Nearly 300 Vietnamese boat people in Malaysia have returned to their country since the memorandum was signed. Every returnee is entitled to a monthly cash allowance of U.S. \$30.

According to the Malaysian Red Crescent Society, about 30 to 40 boat people are voluntarily repatriated every month.

Asked on Malaysia's proposal for the East Asia Economic Caucus (EAEC), Cam said Vietnam supported the proposal as it was not a trade bloc. Such a forum will help develop our economy and enhance mutual cooperation between the countries in the region, he said.

On Vietnam's participation in ASEAN, Cam said Vietnam, for the time being, would only seek status as an observer in the regional grouping. We will consider in the future whether to apply to become a member, he said, adding that its request to become an observer would be decided at the next week's ASEAN summit in Singapore.

Commenting on Vietnam's relations with the United States, Cam said his government had taken the necessary steps to "mend" its relations with the country. He said relations between the two countries could be advanced if the U.S. lifted its trade embargo on Vietnam, which was enforced 17 years ago. It is absurd to continue the embargo after 17 years. It reflects the hostile attitude towards our country, he said. I have met U.S. Secretary of State James Baker last November to initiate the normalisation process, he added.

The foreign minister also said that security in the ASEAN region could only be enhanced through economic cooperation. Each country must help each other to develop the region. Ideological differences should not hinder the mutual cooperation between countries in the region, he said.

Visit Called 'Success'

*BK2301104592 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English
1019 GMT 23 Jan 92*

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Jan 23 (OANA-BERNAMA)—The four-day visit of Vietnamese Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet to Malaysia has opened a new chapter in relations between the two countries with more bilateral economic agreements expected to be signed in the near future.

Describing the visit, which ended Thursday, as a success, Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam said it had also opened a new chapter in mutual cooperation in all aspects.

Relations between the two countries were strained when Vietnam invaded Cambodia in 1978.

Speaking at a press conference before his departure, Cam said Vietnam and Malaysia had also agreed to develop the economic potentials in both countries.

Malaysia will provide the necessary expertise and technical assistance, while our natural resources can be exploited by Malaysia for mutual benefit, he said.

The 63-year old former ambassador to Hungary said both countries would sign more trade agreements in future following the visit.

These would include pacts on air and maritime links between Kuala Lumpur and Hanoi.

We have also agreed to avoid double taxation on goods imported and will sign an agreement on it soon, he said, adding that both countries must have mutual trust and support to make it happen.

We have adopted an open-door policy to enhance ties with other countries as well irrespective of their political or social differences, he said.

The foreign minister said another important achievement of the visit was the building of mutual trust that would enable leaders of the two countries to resolve all outstanding problems affecting their relations solely through negotiations.

Such problems included their conflicting claims to some islands and atolls in the Spratlys in the South China Sea. We should solve all remaining issues through consultations, he added.

Regional Cooperation Stressed

*BK2301064792 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia
in English 0600 GMT 23 Jan 92*

[Text] Vietnam's Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam said regional economic cooperation is the best way to enhance security in the region. Vietnam intends to boost its trade ties with all the ASEAN partners. He was speaking at a news conference in Kuala Lumpur this morning at the end of the four-day visit by Vietnam's Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet to Malaysia. The Vietnamese delegation left for home this afternoon.

On the East Asian Economic Caucus, EAEC, the Vietnamese foreign minister said that his country supports the concept on the basis of equality and it (?being) mutually beneficial. He explained that the Malaysian officials, including the prime minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir, had briefed the Vietnamese on the proposal. Vietnam finds the proposal beneficial as it will help countries in the region to understand each other better.

PRC, India Invited To Attend ASEAN Meeting

*BK2201062892 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English
0453 GMT 22 Jan 92*

[Text] Singapore, Jan 22 (OANA-BERNAMA)—The joint consultative meeting [JCM] of ASEAN senior officials has recommended that India be invited as a sectoral partner in preliminary meetings preceding the next ASEAN Ministerial Meeting (AMM) in Manila in July.

The officials also recommended that China be invited as a guest to the AMM.

The permanent secretary to the Thai Foreign Ministry, Witthaya Wetchachiwa, said both countries had applied to become dialogue partners of ASEAN.

The recommendations will be discussed further by ASEAN Foreign Ministers when they meet on Thursday. In the case of South Korea, it was first a sectoral partner before becoming a full-fledged ASEAN dialogue partner.

"Last year Malaysia invited China when it hosted the AMM. But at the next AMM China will be a guest of ASEAN," Wetchachiwa told reporters Tuesday.

He said the interest shown by countries to become ASEAN's dialogue partner may be the beginning of a trend for ASEAN to extend its relationship with the rest of the world.

Philippines Assistant Foreign Secretary Romualdo Ong said security co-operation was also discussed but the JCM stressed that discussions on the matter go beyond military matters to include other aspects such as economics and trade.

Cambodia

Reaction to 'Serious' Unrest in Kompong Thom

Sihanouk To Visit Area

BK2201133292 Hong Kong AFP in English 1316 GMT 22 Jan 92

[Text] Phnom Penh, Jan 22 (AFP)—Prince Norodom Sihanouk said Wednesday he would go to the central province of Kompong Thom to investigate the most serious violation of the peace treaty yet.

While not pointing a finger directly at the Khmer Rouge for the attacks at the beginning of this month, Prince Sihanouk said he did not believe the Phnom Penh government was at fault.

"It seems the (Phnom Penh forces) cannot be guilty because those villages are under control of the (government)," he said at a press conference. "I would like to go to Kompong Thom, perhaps by helicopter, as soon as possible to meet with the victims of the attacks and try to know the truth."

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said it tallied 13 dead and 18 seriously wounded civilians in the attacks on January 6 and 7.

An estimated 10,000 people have been displaced, the ICRC said, calling the incident the "most significant cease-fire violation" so far.

The Phnom Penh government's official press blamed the Khmer Rouge a full 10 days after the attack, but listed no casualties.

The Khmer Rouge radio said it was an attack by Vietnamese forces and said their forces had killed dozens of Phnom Penh soldiers.

"It seems there is still a very large gap separating them, their approach to the Cambodian problem and their ideologies," Prince Sihanouk said. "They continue to hate each other and mistrust each other."

He said he hoped U.N. special representative Yasushi Akashi, who will head the United Nations Transitional Authority Cambodia (UNTAC), can "narrow the gap."

Akashi, who is here for a four-day visit and who had a private meeting with Prince Sihanouk after the press conference, responded: "This deep-seated distrust will take some time to be bridged."

He also said UNTAC would seek to verify that all Vietnamese troops had indeed pulled out of Cambodia.

Hanoi, whose troops ousted the Khmer Rouge and installed the Phnom Penh regime in 1979, has said it withdrew all forces in 1989.

"I don't smell the odor of the Vietnamese here," Prince Sihanouk said. "We have to request that UNTAC make

a serious inquiry throughout Cambodia to see whether Vietnamese colonialists and army are still there."

He said the Khmer Rouge have put him in "a very awful situation" by continuing to insist they are fighting Vietnamese aggressors.

"It seems like we are living on two different planets," the prince said.

PDK Denies Responsibility

BK2301022292 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 22 Jan 92

["Statement of the Party of Democratic Kampuchea rejecting the propaganda accusing and turning the victims of aggression into offenders but the invaders into innocents;" place and date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] 1. Propaganda was recently launched accusing the forces of the party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK] of shelling various villages in Stoung District of Kompong Thom Province in violation of the Paris accord on Cambodia;

2. The PDK wishes—with regard to the past as well as the present and the future—to totally reject this kind of propaganda; and

3. The propaganda is the darkest maneuver conducted by the Vietnamese aggressors and their cronies and is aimed at turning the victims of the 13-year Vietnamese aggression into wrongdoers but the invaders into innocents.

In fact, the concrete situation in Cambodia is as follows:

1. The Paris 23 October 1991 accord on Cambodia is already in existence; and

2. The Vietnamese aggressor forces have continued to carry out offensives against the Cambodian national resistance forces since the signing of the accord.

The Vietnamese goal is to fully recover the liberated zones—including the latter's territory, economy, and people—from the resistance forces in preparations for winning the future elections. The Vietnamese aggressors' constant offensives against the resistance forces everywhere throughout the country—which are causing further suffering to the Cambodian people—are due to their irritation with the Paris accord, which imposes the verification of the withdrawal of all Vietnamese aggressor forces from Cambodia. This being the case, the Vietnamese aggressors continue to systematically and mercilessly shoot the Cambodian people to death, burn their houses and villages, and kill their cattle. Given the aggressive activities of these Vietnamese aggressors, is there any party violating the Paris accord other than the Vietnamese?

The entire Cambodian people and the peace and justice-loving countries the world over have been very conscious of the true nature of the Vietnamese aggressors, who have never abided by any agreement at all. The people and countries still well remember that:

1. The Vietnamese aggressors grossly violated the Geneva 1962 accord on Laos;
2. They encroached upon the Paris 1973 accord signed between the United States and Vietnam; and
3. At present, the Vietnamese aggressors are violating the Paris accord on Cambodia, then accusing the Cambodian national resistance forces—the victims of the 13-year Vietnamese aggression—of infringing upon the accord instead.

The Cambodian people, who continue to directly suffer from the offenses currently committed by the Vietnamese aggressors, hold that the fact that the Vietnamese invaders have become more and more insolent, aggressive, and cruel by further invading and occupying Cambodia at will is because the UN transitional authority in Cambodia [UNTAC] has not yet come to keep them under control. The Paris 23 October 1991 clearly stipulates that the UNTAC should be dispatched to Cambodia to join hands with the four-party Supreme National Council [SNC] of Cambodia to oversee and make sure that all categories of Vietnamese aggressor forces completely withdraw from Cambodia. Nevertheless, it is three months since the Paris accord was reached and the UNTAC has still not been dispatched to Cambodia.

Democratic Kampuchea wishes to point out that in order to find out who is right or wrong, who is violating the cease-fire agreement, and who is sabotaging the Paris accord, there should be referees—the UNTAC and the SNC. The PDK has repeatedly demanded that the UNTAC be expeditiously dispatched to Cambodia to undertake, in conjunction with the SNC, the control over the complete withdrawal of the Vietnamese aggressor forces from Cambodia.

The four Cambodian armed forces have increasingly realized that the delayed dispatch of the UNTAC to Cambodia is, politically, aimed at providing the Vietnamese with the opportunity to further attack the Cambodian resistance forces and people at will, then maneuvering to put the blame on the patriots for the purpose of serving their strategies.

Unsigned Statement Refutes Attack

BK2301052392 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 22 Jan 92

[“Statement refuting the accusation that the Party of Democratic Kampuchea’s forces shelled the people in Stoung District of Kompong Thom Province;” date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] 1. Since the signing of the Paris accord on 23 October 1991, the Vietnamese aggressors and their accomplices have continued to conduct activities for impairing the accord. From November or December 1991 thus far, the Vietnamese aggressors have gathered their forces to further their offensives aimed at retaking our liberated villages and regions along National Route 12 in Stoung and Kompong Svay Khang Lich Districts, Kompong Thom Province—they have overrun a number of our liberated villages and areas. They shelled our liberated villages and areas with cannons and multiple rocket launchers, preventing the local people from harvesting their rice. Moreover, they moved and massed tens of thousands of villagers along Route 12 so they would have the opportunity to rob and plunder the property of the people living in various farms. The victimized people are well aware of the events. At the time when the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea launched attacks to drive them out from those villages, there was no single inhabitant left there but the Vietnamese aggressors. After forcing the latter out of our liberated areas, we brought the people back to their villages and the people have come back one after the other; and

2. After being defeated, the Vietnamese aggressors and their cronies conducted noisy propaganda accusing the PDK [Party of Democratic Kampuchea] of mounting this or that attack against the people. They ordered a number of people to set up stages on which accusations were unleashed against Democratic Kampuchea. All in all, the truth is as revealed above. The same stages were organized in Kompong Thom, Siem Reap, and Pursat Provinces and other places throughout the country.

Concerning the accusation:

1. The PDK wishes to totally reject it;
2. Who has strived to have the Paris accord concluded and who has been opposed to the accord?
3. Who has destroyed the Paris accord and who has tried to implement the accord with concrete action?

However, in order to judge this matter, the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia should quickly come to join hands with the Supreme National Council [SNC]:

1. To verify the withdrawal of the Vietnamese aggressors from Cambodia; and
2. To oversee the four Cambodian parties’ armed forces.

Unstable Situation Discussed

BK2301112592 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 22 Jan 92

[Unattributed commentary: “What Really Happens in Cambodia? What Is the Duty of the Cambodian People?”]

[Text] 1. There were reports that on 20 and 21 January 1992, the forces of the Party of Democratic Kampuchea

[PDK] shelled people's villages in Stoung District of Kompong Thom Province in violation of the cease-fire accord, causing the people in this district to flee from their villages.

2. What is the real situation in Cambodia?

This question relates to the problem of who has demanded the correct and a correct and thorough implementation of the agreement? Who has launched activities to destroy the agreement and to hide the fact that the Vietnamese aggressors have violated the agreement? Who has delayed the deployment of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC] for joining hands with the Supreme National Council [SNC] headed by Cambodian Head of State His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk in implementing the agreement, in an attempt to hinder the implementation of the agreement?

The real situation in Cambodia is that the Vietnamese aggressor forces are still controlling Cambodia. The Vietnamese aggressor forces are everywhere in Cambodia, in Phnom Penh, in the provinces, military regions, divisions, battlefields, and even in villages and communes.

These Vietnamese aggressor forces are leading the Phnom Penh side's forces to launch large-, medium, and small-scale offensives against the Cambodian national resistance forces on all battlefields throughout the country. They have not yet been kept under control.

3. We do not want to jeer at those propagandists and slanderers. But we have the full right to seek the truth and point at the wrongdoers who are slandering the guiltless.

The actual event which took place in Stoung District of Kompong Thom Province on 12 January 1992 is that the Vietnamese aggressors together with the soldiers from the Phnom Penh side's Kompong Thom provincial unit and the 5th Division fired hundreds of shells from many multiple rocket launchers and cannons into Prahut, Kbal Damrei, and Vat Krapeu villages and areas around them. The Vietnamese aggressor forces and Phnom Penh armed forces also charged into and seized many liberated villages in this region. After fierce fighting which lasted until 15 January, the PDK national army on (?Stoung) battlefield routed and forced them to retreat.

Therefore, the propaganda launched on radio on 20 and 21 January is just a slander to turn white into black in an attempt to encourage the Vietnamese aggressor forces to launch all kinds of activities and schemes to destroy the Paris agreement dated 23 October 1991 and prevent the SNC from functioning.

The duty of the Cambodian people is that the Cambodian people have the full right to join hands within the framework of the policy of Cambodian great national union in retaliating the Vietnamese aggressors for the defense of their nation and interests by, on the one hand,

enhancing their forces for attacking the Vietnamese aggressors vigorously and, on the other, striving jointly to build their economy and livelihood.

The Cambodian people have also persistently called for the deployment of the UNTAC and the UN Peace-keeping Force in Cambodia as soon as possible to join with the SNC in implementing the agreement and particularly to jointly supervise the total withdrawal of Vietnamese aggressor forces from Cambodia in line with the Paris document dated 23 October 1991.

DPRK's Kim Yong-nam Continues Visit, Meetings

Prince Sihanouk Receives Minister

*BK2301070992 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon
Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT
22 Jan 92*

[Text] His Royal Highness [HRH] Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council [SNC] of Cambodia, granted an audience at the Khemarin Palace at 1130 in the morning of 22 January to His Excellency [H.E.] Kim Yong-nam, deputy premier and minister of foreign affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea [DPRK], and his delegation.

Also present at the audience were H.E. Hun Sen, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the State of Cambodia [SOC] and member of the SNC, and his wife; and H.E. Hor Namhong, SOC minister of foreign affairs and member of the SNC, and his wife.

HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk warmly welcomed H.E. Kim Yong-nam on his official and friendly visit to Cambodia. The prince wished him success in this historic visit through which he conveyed his greetings to H.E. Kim Il-song, president of the DPRK, wishing the latter the best of health so that he would continue to lead the Korean motherland and people toward greater development. The prince also reaffirmed his stance of always supporting Korea's national reunification policy.

On that occasion, after transmitting H.E. Kim Il-song's greetings and message to HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk, H.E. Kim Yong-nam expressed pleasure at being able to call on the prince and wished him success in fulfilling his historic mission of leading the beautiful land of Angkor toward national reunification and reconciliation and bringing genuine peace for the Cambodian motherland and people. He also highly valued the time-honored relations of solidarity and friendship between the prince and H.E. Kim Il-song.

Hun Sen Discusses Current Situation

*BK2201092592 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon
Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT
22 Jan 92*

[Text] On the afternoon of 21 January at the office of the Council of Ministers, His Excellency [H.E.] Hun Sen,

chairman of the State of Cambodia's Council of Ministers and member of the Cambodian Supreme National Council, received H.E. Kim Yong-nam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of the DPRK.

After expressing a warm welcome, H.E. Hun Sen informed H.E. Kim Yong-nam of the current situation in Cambodia and the results of the implementation of the Paris peace agreement. H.E. Hun Sen talked about a number of remaining issues, including the delay in the deployment of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia and the repatriation of Cambodian refugees from camps in Thailand. H.E. Hun Sen said all this was due to the lack of funds which could also delay the elections. H.E. Hun Sen talked about the State of Cambodia's continued support for Korea's national unification policy.

Replying, H.E. Kim Yong-nam conveyed the regards of H.E. Kim Il-song to H.E. Hun Sen. He highly appreciated the special and the long-standing relations between H.E. Kim Il-song and His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk. After talking about building socialism in Korea, H.E. Kim Yong-nam said despite changes in Eastern Europe, particularly in the former Soviet Union, Korea still adheres to socialism by consistently implementing the path and goal set by H.E. Kim Il-song.

The two sides also exchanged views on the world situation.

Hor Namhong Hosts Reception

BK2301072992 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 23 Jan 92

[Text] On the night of 21 January at Chamka Mon State Palace, His Excellency [H.E.] Hor Namhong, foreign Minister of the State of Cambodia and member of the Supreme National Council [SNC] of Cambodia, hosted a reception in honor of H.E. Kim Yong-nam, vice premier and foreign minister of the DPRK, and his delegation.

All members of the SNC; leading cadres from institutions, offices, and departments in the State of Cambodia; the head of the UN Advance Mission in Cambodia; ambassadors; and representatives of various international organizations were also present.

Sihanouk Receives UN Special Envoy Akashi 22 Jan

BK2301071992 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 23 Jan 92

[Text] His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council [SNC] of Cambodia, granted an audience to His Excellency [H.E.] Yasushi Akashi, special envoy of the UN secretary general, at Khemarin Palace on the afternoon of 22 January. H.E. Hor Namhong, foreign minister of the State of Cambodia and member of the SNC;

and H.E. Ieng Muli, secretary general of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front and member of the SNC, were also present.

Speaking on that occasion, His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk enthusiastically welcomed the presence of H.E. Yasushi Akashi in Cambodia and regarded his visit as a valuable contribution to launching cooperation with the SNC to promote the Cambodian peace process. The samdech added that at present the Cambodian People's Party has painstakingly implemented the peace accord signed in Paris on 23 October 1991, and in conjunction with the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] and Amnesty International, has already released all war and political prisoners.

In his reply, H.E. Yasushi Akashi said he was very pleased to have met with His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk and praised all the SNC members for having displayed their efforts in cooperation with the representatives of the five UN Security Council permanent member countries and the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia to enhance the Cambodian peace process. H.E. Akashi added that at the moment countries the world over continue to support the peace process in Cambodia, and stressed that he would do his utmost to make Cambodian national reunification successful, leading to free and just general elections in the country.

Ranariddh Interviewed on Dispute With Chea Sim

BK2201115592 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 17 Jan 92

["Recent" interview with His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Ranariddh, secretary general of the National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia and member of the Supreme National Council, by unidentified station correspondent—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] I, representative of the Voice of the Khmer [VOK], would like to pay all my respects to His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Ranariddh, supreme commander of the National Army of Independent Cambodia, secretary general of the National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia [FUNCINPEC], and member of the Supreme National Council [SNC] of Cambodia. I express my deepest thanks to your highness for kindly granting me a royal audience and permitting me to interview your highness for the information of our VOK listeners. I humbly beg your highness to please clarify the following questions:

1. Recently, the VOK informed its listeners that FUNCINPEC, with your highness as secretary general, had planned to name your present party as the Sihanoukist Party, a pro-His Royal Highness [HRH] Prince Norodom Sihanouk party. However, later according to some reports, HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the SNC, was not pleased with the

idea that his royal name was being used. Would your highness please explain this matter in detail to our listeners?

[Ranariddh] First of all, I, Norodom Ranariddh, would like to express my thanks to the VOK for allowing this interview with me, Norodom Ranariddh, today. Before answering your first question, I would like to avail myself of this opportunity to most respectfully and affectionately inform all venerable monks residing inside Cambodia as well as those in the liberated zones under FUNCINPEC control. I also take this opportunity to express my boundless greetings and respect to all grandmothers, grandfathers, uncles, aunts, all blood brothers and sisters, intellectuals, students, fraternal peasants, and so on living throughout Cambodia as well as in our liberated zones. I further take this opportunity to extend to all Buddhist monks, to all patriots, and to all citizens the expression of my most profound gratitude for the firm and resolute support and multifarious sacrifices that you have given us in the Sihanoukist movement during our historic struggle to liberate the motherland and restore its independence, territorial integrity, freedom, national dignity, and national prestige. If all of us had not enjoyed this staunch support, I am sure that the so-called Cambodia problem would not have been settled and the 23 October 1991 Paris peace accord on Cambodia would not have been signed.

Nevertheless, peace like a new-born child is far from being able to stand on its own feet. For this reason, I would like to appeal to all patriotic Cambodian brothers, to all esteemed patriotic blood brothers to help the SNC under the lofty chairmanship of HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk, to support any patriotic movement that is loyal to the nation and the people and to assist the growing UN mission in implementing the above peace plan 100 percent. Only this Paris peace accord will be able to restore to our country its genuine independence, freedoms, sovereignty, and liberal democracy. In other words, only through the UN-organized free and fair elections, as I always say, can security, freedom, and independence be returned to our Cambodia as in the times of his highness our Prince Father. Only through these elections will our citizens, the true masters of the land, have the possibility of choosing their own regime, and their own leaders who are loyal to the nation, clean, and fair-minded in order to run the country. Only through these UN-organized elections can there be a legal government as this government will be elected throughout the country by the citizens—the only masters of the land. No party, no individuals, no leaders can claim to be the masters of the land. The only masters of the land are the Cambodian people in general.

For this reason, I, Norodom Ranariddh, in my capacity as secretary general of the FUNCINPEC movement, which is a Sihanoukist movement, would like to solemnly promise today that I will always respect the will of the people to be demonstrated in the UN-organized ballots. I therefore would like to appeal to all Cambodian factions not to betray the Paris peace accord. If we are

true patriots, we must respect this accord 100 percent and give the possibility to choose to the Cambodian people who, I would like to repeat again and again, are the genuine masters of the land, the owners of our beloved Cambodia.

I take this opportunity to solemnly declare that if our party wins the elections because all of you—grandmothers, grandfathers, uncles, aunts, brothers, and sisters—think that we are good, that we are true Sihanoukists and you give us most of your votes, I promise that 24 hours after we have won the elections and after there is a law permitting us to form a government, we will hand over all the nation-leading power to HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk because when he was head of state of Cambodia he steered our Cambodian ship of state toward national independence, making us a satellite of no one and bringing about freedoms 100 percent, territorial integrity 100 percent, and sovereignty 100 percent. In the times of his highness the Prince Father known as the Sangkum Reas Niyum period, we Cambodians were very happy both in the rural areas and in the cities. Our Cambodia was known as an Asian Switzerland or an Oasis of Peace at a time when the flames of war were raging in Laos and Vietnam.

For all these reasons, we became pro-Sihanouk years back, long before the few latter-day Sihanoukists of 1990-91. Some of them in 1991 were even calling his highness names and only very recently did they claim to be Sihanoukists. As for those of us who have proclaimed ourselves nationalists and Sihanoukists, we love this doctrine called Sihanoukism. This Sihanoukism has lofty and far-reaching meaning. Brothers, this Sihanoukism is a doctrine that unites Cambodians from all political tendencies or from all parties based on national independence, neutrality, and dignity, social justice, and comprehensive development in the country, such as in the economic and social fields. It is a doctrine that resolutely eschews dependence, reliance, or satellite status toward any foreign countries. It is a doctrine that opposes national treason and all kinds of corruption and social injustice. It also resolutely opposes the use of violence and arms in violation of human rights.

To your very significant first question, I feel most honored to give the following answer: It is true that our FUNCINPEC party or movement has intended to change itself from a front to a party because since the signing of the 23 October accord, we have expected that there will be elections to choose the members of a constituent assembly and members of the new national assembly and then to elect new leaders for Cambodia. For that reason, we have held that we must turn our movement from a front into a political party. In this connection, on 22 December I requested a royal audience with his highness the Prince Father, HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk, in order to humbly request his royal opinion on the name of our party. The prince kindly bestowed upon us the permission to use his name because, he said, we have for years been serving him and the supreme national interests by most loyally waging the

national liberation struggle. Our loyalty is proven, unlike a certain party that has just claimed to be Sihanoukist. We have long been loyal to the Prince Father, to his correct royal policy, to a doctrine called Sihanoukism. Moreover, our venerated Prince Father understands very well that our FUNCINPEC is recognized by the world, the international community, and our Cambodian community as a purely Sihanoukist movement. Foreign observers and press agencies have also recognized us as a Sihanoukist movement. For this reason, his highness resolutely and generously bestowed upon us the great honor of naming our party the Sihanoukist Party, a pro-HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk party.

We have not asked for anything more than making all grandmothers, grandfathers, uncles, aunts, brothers, and sisters know us very well as true Sihanoukists. The reason is that since the signing of the peace accord many parties have also proclaimed his highness the Prince Father as their own father, too, and his highness kindly said he agreed to consider them as his children. However, some of these children not so long ago scorned, scoffed at, and ridiculed their own father. Therefore, all of us Sihanoukists have no intention of using the Prince Father's royal name for our own benefit in the elections at all since we have already been known far and wide as Sihanoukists. We only want for justice to be done since we have always been loyal to our Prince Father. We only want to be clearly and officially recognized as Sihanoukists.

Not long after that, though, His Excellency Chea Sim called on his highness the Prince Father on 9 January 1992. During the audience, he urged his highness to not allow FUNCINPEC to use the royal name because in his own party, called the Cambodian People's Party [CPP], some members and some intellectuals had raised an objection to that and had demanded that his highness remain neutral by not allowing FUNCINPEC to use his royal name.

Concerning his highness' neutrality, I would like to stress that in allowing us to use his royal name, our Prince Father did not intend to let us use it for publicity purposes but only to identify ourselves as Sihanoukists. His highness knows very well how to remain neutral in his royal capacity as SNC chairman, as head of state, and as the father of the nation. His highness knows very well that he must not love one person more than another. He only understands that the term Sihanouk used in this case is rather Sihanoukist and not Sihanouk's. The party does not belong to his highness and his highness does not personally head the party.

In this connection, I beg all esteemed and beloved compatriots in the country to please kindly consider this: The CPP signed an agreement with us, consented that together with us it would support the Prince Father's royal crusade and his candidacy in future presidential elections, and claimed that it was an ally of our FUNCINPEC. Why then—and this is most perplexing—when other Cambodian factions neither raised any

objection to nor lodged any protest to his highness regarding this name of the Sihanoukist Party, only H.E. Chea Sim on behalf of his CPP was opposed to it? This clearly shows us that in the signing of the agreement on the alliance between our two movements or two parties, the CPP has never been sincere because both of us had claimed to be supporters of his highness and had promised that after the elections, win or lose, we would continue to cooperate in the new national assembly, and yet Chea Sim had asked his highness to ban our FUNCINPEC from using his royal name. Mind you, we are not using the royal name; we only want to show that we are pro-HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk, that we support the symbol of Sihanoukism.

Before ending my answer to your first question, I would like to draw the following conclusion: When Chea Sim and his CPP objected to HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk's permitting FUNCINPEC to change its name to the Sihanoukist Party, H.E. Chea Sim and his party clearly showed the national and international public that their declaration that his highness is the father of the entire Cambodian nation, the head of state of all of Cambodia, and the father and mother of the CPP and the signing of the alliance treaty by the CPP represented by H.E. Hun Sen with FUNCINPEC represented by me were not made sincerely at all. If H.E. Chea Sim and his party were sincere toward his highness and FUNCINPEC, why should H.E. Chea Sim and his party be worried that our FUNCINPEC might win the elections? If there are free and fair UN-organized elections in Cambodia, I am hopeful that FUNCINPEC—whether it is called FUNCINPEC or the Sihanoukist Party—will surely have the great honor and great fortune of winning most of the votes from the people throughout the country. Then, who will win the elections? Will FUNCINPEC or Rannariddh win? No. It will be his highness our Prince Father alone and no one else who will win the elections, for at that time the people as a whole will show him that they continue to love and support him and that they want his highness to come back and lead Cambodia like in the Sangkum Reas Niyum period. Then, as the father of the nation and as the father of national reconciliation, his highness will surely reunite and reconcile the nation. H.E. Chea Sim and his party therefore should not be afraid that FUNCINPEC will win because we are Sihanoukist.

Furthermore, H.E. Chea Sim should also note that among all Cambodian factions, none besides the Phnom Penh faction objected to FUNCINPEC's name change. Neither the Party of Democratic Kampuchea nor the party of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front headed by Samdech Son Sann raised any objection. Only the Phnom Penh faction, only the CPP which was the ally of the Sihanoukist FUNCINPEC protested this name change.

For all these reasons, I beg all venerable monks, grandmothers, grandfathers, uncles, and aunts to judge for themselves who is a true Sihanoukist and who is not. I only wish to observe that when the CPP, the State of

Cambodia [SOC], and their leaders organized mass meetings to welcome his highness in Phnom Penh, in Kompong Cham, and in Kandal, they placed his highness' pictures everywhere with slogans and posters praising and supporting him and intermingled these with slogans and posters praising and supporting the CPP and SOC. In so doing, did that not mean that the CPP and SOC had taken advantage of the great popularity of his highness the Prince Father? At that time, did the CPP, SOC, and all their leaders think about the neutrality of our Prince Father? And at that time did our FUNCINPEC party raise any objection to his highness the Prince Father or to the CPP concerning the former's neutrality?

Our anguish or regret notwithstanding, first we understood well that in our capacity as his highness' children who have always been loyal to him we would always follow and support him in all his wishes and whims; second, we respected liberal democracy, meaning that we should not interfere in the internal affairs of any other faction; and third, we wanted to show that we were sincere in the agreement we signed with the CPP. It is all up to the venerable monks and respected grandmothers, grandfathers, uncles, and aunts to judge who is loyal to his highness and who is not.

[Correspondent] The SNC held its second meeting in Phnom Penh last week and your highness was not present at that meeting. Some reports said that your highness did not attend that meeting because of a conflict of opinion between you and your father, HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk, regarding the choice of the party name. Was this true as reported?

[Ranariddh] It is true that during the meeting of the SNC on 11 December under the lofty chairmanship of his highness our Prince Father in Phnom Penh, I was not present. This is true. The truth is that I did not create an obstacle or raise opposition to the Paris accord, nor did I try to obstruct the implementation of the peace plan. As I have already said in my statement dated yesterday, 13 January, I did not attend and have not gone to Phnom Penh because I understood that H.E. Chea Sim's objection to his highness' granting us the use of his royal name to identify ourselves as nationalists and Sihanoukists ran totally contrary to liberal democracy in which each individual or each group must have the freedom to choose his party's name according to his liking and in which no individual or party should force another individual or party to accept or to reject a name already chosen.

I would like to further recall that the accord that all of us signed in Paris dealing with peace in Cambodia resolutely opposes violations or interference by one party against another party. This accord clearly stresses the equality among parties. Also in this context, I would like to affirm that our party respects all other parties. For example, recently as all venerable monks and all grandmothers, grandfathers, uncles, and aunts know very well, the CPP and SOC welcomed his highness the Prince

Father in Phnom Penh. They also know that his highness returned to Cambodia not in order to serve any party but to perform his function as SNC chairman. However, the CPP and SOC put his highness the Prince Father on parade in Phnom Penh and in the provinces of Kandal and Kompong Cham. What was the purpose of that action? Was it not for exploiting his popularity since they were well aware that all the people, all grandmothers, grandfathers, uncles, aunts, and venerable monks, young and old alike, continue to cherish his highness the Prince Father?

Not long ago, a leader of the CPP affirmed to foreign journalists that only those Cambodians who are 40 or 45 and above have any knowledge about his highness. This means that any Cambodian younger than 45 years old would not know his highness at all. On the contrary, when his highness the Prince Father returned to the country we clearly saw that young and old alike were cheering 'Long Live the Prince Father!' and the young ones seemed to be greeting his highness even more vociferously than their elders. Therefore we clearly see that the popularity of our Prince Father among our people remains as strong as ever. Thus, did not the CPP make use of the popularity of the Prince Father? Did they worry about the neutrality of his highness? And has my party ever made any objection to all of that? Has my party ever objected to his highness the Prince Father or to H.E. Chea Sim? No. Never. This is because we respect liberal democracy.

Moreover, if I have not yet returned to Phnom Penh it is because I clearly understand that if H.E. Chea Sim and his party could apply pressure on this or that persons it is because present-day Phnom Penh—the only site of our SNC—is not a neutral zone as stipulated in the Paris peace accord. In this case, in order to turn Phnom Penh into a neutral zone, in my opinion, all Cambodian factions must respect and implement the Paris peace accord on Cambodia 100 percent. Also in my opinion, so that the SNC has all the authority, prestige, and ability to fulfill its tasks, the SNC must be recognized as the only source of authority and the only legal organization of Cambodia during the transitional period. The SNC in Phnom Penh at present has not yet received the respect or recognition as the only source of authority and legality. That constitutes the obstacle preventing our SNC from fulfilling its duties despite the great efforts made by his highness the Prince Father.

In conclusion, I hold that Phnom Penh is not a 100 percent neutral or safe zone because of the special representative of the UN secretary general and the UN Transitional Authority known in an English abbreviation as UNTAC have not yet arrived in Cambodia. For this reason, I, Norodom Ranariddh, in my capacity as the leader of a nationalist movement and a member of the SNC, will return to Phnom Penh and will work with his highness the Prince Father again when the special representative of the UN secretary general arrives in Phnom Penh. I take this opportunity to inform all venerable monks and all VOK listeners that the new UN

secretary general, Mr. Butrus Ghali, has already appointed his special representative to help Cambodia, to help the SNC, and to help implement the Cambodia peace plan signed in Paris on 23 October.

To end my answer to your second question, I would like to stress again and again that my not going to Phnom Penh is not because of any dispute I have with my father. As I said before, it was not his highness the Prince Father who did not permit us to have our party named the Sihanoukist Party. It was H.E. Chea Sim who protested our party being named the Sihanoukist Party. It was not my father who objected. I remain forever the affectionate and respectful son and continue to maintain good, close, loving, and best father-son relations with his highness.

In this connection, H.E. Chea Sim cited some intellectuals and some members within the framework of his CPP. I have no comments on that, but I beg all intellectuals to please pass judgment and give me justice. If you are true intellectuals tell me what condition liberal democracy is in when we are supposed to be working under liberal democracy and still we have no law, elections have not been held, and we do not even have the right to show our liking for this or that person. Where is our liberal democracy? This is my only question for those esteemed intellectuals.

[Correspondent] Certain circles have said that your highness' recent absence in Phnom Penh was an obstruction, an obstacle to the implementation of the Paris accord on peace in Cambodia. Would you like to provide a clarification on that?

[Ranariddh] To your third question, here is my answer: Neither our FUNCINPEC nor I personally constitute any problem or obstacle to the process of implementing the peace plan for Cambodia. This is because, first, as I have said long before, the latest incident was not caused by HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk or by me. It was caused by H.E. Chea Sim of the CPP who objected when we officially declared ourselves to be Sihanoukists. Moreover, our FUNCINPEC movement and myself remain SNC members and during my absence—the absence of Norodom Ranariddh—our FUNCINPEC received the great honor of being represented by our most venerated and worshipped HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk. This was another wonderful thing to have happened to us. They protested to his highness not to allow FUNCINPEC to use his royal name, but because of that protest HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk became FUNCINPEC's representative within the purview of the SNC. Now, what objection will they raise to that? Will they protest that in doing so his highness has displayed a lack of neutrality?

In this matter, I would like to present an explanation in advance: In this conflict, on many occasions, when a member representing the SOC was absent either H.E.

Hun Sen or H.E. Hor Namhong automatically represented the absentee member. Recently, H.E. Khieu Samphan represented H.E. Son Sen on two different occasions. Therefore, because of the absence of Norodom Ranariddh, who then is entitled to represent Ranariddh, a Sihanoukist, more than HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk himself? As his highness said: H.E. Khieu Samphan represents Son Sen; H.E. Hun Sen represents H.E. Im Chhunlim; and now I, Sihanouk, represent Ranariddh, a Sihanoukist, and FUNCINPEC, a Sihanoukist movement.

One more thing, why did his highness the Prince Father have to represent us? As you know, the resistance movement is entitled to have six members with each faction having two representatives. In November 1991, the SNC unanimously elected his highness the Prince Father as SNC chairman and one faction—to put it bluntly, the Phnom Penh faction—refused to accept the choice of another FUNCINPEC representative. We on the FUNCINPEC side thus made another sacrifice in the superior cause of the nation. We agreed to the fact that while other factions have two members each and Phnom Penh even has six, our side consented to having only one member. We did not demand to have another representative. Consequently, during his absence, Ranariddh will always be represented by HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk as representative of our FUNCINPEC movement. And because of our FUNCINPEC's being represented by HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk, it is obvious that the function of our SNC has not been stalled. Ranariddh's absence therefore does not constitute any obstruction to the process of the Cambodia peace plan whatsoever.

In conclusion, in the political and military structures of the SNC or of the United Nations we continue to closely and most sincerely cooperate with the UN mission called UNAMIC as well as with bodies within the SNC framework. For example, we have representatives working with UNAMIC in Phnom Penh as well as on various battlefields, such as in Oddar Meanchey, Siem Reap, and Kompong Thom. We closely cooperate with UNAMIC's representative Mr. Ataul Karim. We have permanent representatives within the framework of the SNC Secretariat. Our FUNCINPEC top officials have always been fully empowered to permanently reside in Phnom Penh to attend all working sessions under the chairmanship of his highness the Prince Father, Norodom Sihanouk, to discuss and settle important issues for peace and for our beloved motherland. All of that has enabled us to clearly see and to clearly state that all the impediments, problems, obstacles, or bad consequences that occurred before were not the doing of our FUNCINPEC. I am not going to go any deeper into that. I only beg all venerable monks, all brothers, including the intellectuals, peasants, and workers, all citizens, including the grandmothers, grandfathers, uncles, and aunts who are just-minded to please judge to see who is right and who is wrong.

In any case, it is my greatest hope that when there are elections in the not too distant future under UN auspices—it is our sole belief that the elections can be just,

fair, and free only if they are organized by the United Nations—you will choose any party, any political movement that is just-minded, fair-minded, and loyal to the nation, to the motherland, to the people, and especially to his highness the Prince Father whom you all love and whose return to power is being awaited by all of you everywhere in the country.

In conclusion, I, Norodom Ranariddh would like to bow once again in respect to all venerable monks. All my affection and greetings go to all grandmothers, grandfathers, uncles, and aunts. I pray to the triple jewels of Buddhism to bless all of you grandmothers, grandfathers, uncles, and aunts. May all of you live in peace and happiness forever. Thank you.

Indonesia

'Strong' Protest Filed to Burmese Government

BK2201111892 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0810 GMT 22 Jan 92

[Text] Jakarta, Jan 22 (OANA-ANTARA)—The Islamic Solidarity Committee (ISC) here has filed a strong protest against the Myanmar [Burmese] Government over that country's harsh attitude toward Muslims, following the reported deaths of 700 Rohingya Muslims of suffocation in concentration camp across the Bangladesh border.

Myanmar's harsh persecution against Muslims was very merciless and cruel, Chairman of the Islamic Solidarity Committee Lukman Harun said in a release on Tuesday.

The committee called on the United Nations secretary general to immediately send observers to Myanmar country's brutal attitude toward Muslims.

In addition, the committee also urged the Myanmar Government not to deny Muslims their rights as religious human beings.

Suharto Meets With Australia's Chief Minister

BK2201125192 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1200 GMT 22 Jan 92

[Text] President Suharto says good relations between Indonesia and Australia must be preserved and should not be affected by the Australian people's uneasiness over the 12 November Dili incident. This was disclosed by Marshall Perron, chief minister of Australia's Northern Territory, to reporters after he paid a courtesy call on the head of state at the Bina Graha presidential office in Jakarta this afternoon.

Perron said the president had briefed him on the Dili incident. The Australian Government believes close bilateral relations should be further strengthened in the coming years and should not be affected by any incident.

Meanwhile, Australian Ambassador to Indonesia Philip Flood [name as heard], who was accompanying Perron,

noted that the Australian Government was satisfied with the outcome of the investigation on the Dili incident carried out by the Jaelani-led National Investigation Commission.

Minister Announces Planned Oil Production Cut

BK2201100192 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0741 GMT 22 Jan 92

[Text] Jakarta, Jan 22 (OANA-ANTARA)—Indonesia will soon cut its crude production by 25,000 barrel per day (bpd) in an attempt to reduce OPEC's oil supply and boost prices on the world market, Mining and Energy Minister Ginanjar Kartasasmita told reporters here on Wednesday.

"President Suharto has agreed to cut crude production by 25,000 bpd," the minister said after a meeting with the head of state at the Bina Graha Presidential Office.

Ginanjar who met the president to report oil price developments said that Indonesia's oil production in December last year totalled 1.450 million bpd.

A number of OPEC's (Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries) members such as Saudi Arabia had also cut their production. Saudi Arabia reduced its oil output by 100,000 bpd while Qatar by 35,000 bpd.

Indonesia hopes all OPEC members would cut oil output by 400,000 bpd to help increase the oil price which has fallen to 17 U.S. dollars per barrel, lower than the benchmark of 19 U.S. dollars per barrel.

"We hope the falling price would be stopped by cutting output," the minister added.

The world oil consumption in the first quarter of this year could be smaller than the previous OPEC's estimates.

OPEC's previous prediction that this year's winter would be severer turned out to be wrong and the amount of oil consumption could not be as big as expected, Ginanjar said.

Besides, OPEC has also predicted that the former Soviet Union would pump up less oil and export little crude. However, the consumption level in those countries dropped drastically and their oil supply remained bigger.

The reduction by 25,000 bpd in Indonesia's oil output is smaller—compared with that of other OPEC members such as Saudi Arabia and Nigeria (50,000 bpd)—but it is bigger if compared with the recent production increase by 75,000 bpd, the minister said.

According to Ginanjar, Indonesia increased its output by 75,000 bpd after OPEC allowed its members to increase production.

The minister also said that OPEC needed to review its members' quota fixed in July 1990.

OPEC needs to fix new quota by looking into the real production capacity of its members, the minister said.

On the occasion, the minister also reported to the president the power blackout in Java on January 12 as a result of lightning which struck the Suralaya steam power plant in West Java.

He said that electricity supply for Java and Bali much depended on the Suralaya plant because the system applied was interconnection.

About 30 percent of power supply for Java and Bali come from the Suralaya plant.

The Ministry of Mines and Energy is conducting a study in order to prevent such a power blackout, Ginanjar said.

Laos

PASASON Article Marks Army Anniversary

BK2201062192 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 20 Jan 92

[20 January PASASON article: "Enhance Our Army's Tradition of Heroic Fighting"]

[Text] Our army is composed of beloved sons and nephews from our multiethnic people who have maintained the patriotic spirit of cherishing independence. Organized, led, educated, trained, and built by the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP], our army has enhanced loyalty to the party and the nation and sacrificed everything for the national independence and happiness of the entire people. Its fine traditions, genuine character, and purity have also been increasingly promoted, expanded, and consolidated. It is worthy of the commendation and name given by Kaysone Phomvihane, leader of our party and state, who said on the occasion of the celebration of the 30th founding anniversary of the Lao People's Army [LPA] that the LPA is worthy of being the heroic army of the heroic Lao nation.

At the beginning of its founding, it served only as an armed propaganda unit. At that time, our army performed the propaganda duty while building revolutionary bases and fighting the enemies. It systematically won victories and built and expanded more bases. The spirit of heroic fighting was proved in light of the balance and quality of forces in our army compared with those of enemy. At that time, our army was clearly overwhelmed by the enemy force. Our army was equipped with backward weapons. It also had fewer weapons and troops than the enemy, who were equipped with modern weapons.

Let us recall certain periods of fighting and certain fierce combat operations of historic significance, such as the period of fighting to defend the two regrouping provinces of Houa Phan and Phong Saly. During the period we took advantage of the situation by coordinating our operations with the Dien Bien Phu liberation operation

in Vietnam in the early dry season of 1953. Following the operations, we successfully liberated Sam Neua. We then launched an attack on Thakhek. As a result, we successfully expanded our liberated areas.

Later, in the period of switching to armed struggle following the breaking out of prison by our leaders in 1959 and 1960, our armed forces Battalion No. 2—one of the two battalions taking part in the operations to reunify the Lao nation—heroically broke out of an enemy encirclement and moved from the Plain of Jars to their position. It later launched attacks against the enemy forces, thus liberating the Plain of Jars-Xieng Khouang and Sam Neua for the second time. At the same time, Battalion No. 1, which was operating in Siang Ngeun District, Luang Prabang Province, heroically broke away from the enemy encirclement. It then joined with part of battalion No. 2 in fighting to liberate the Sala Phoukhoun, Pha Chen, Kieu Kacham, and Kasi and proceeding as deep as Vangviang and Hin Heup. Simultaneously, Battalion No. 500 of hero Sithong coordinated with the Kong Le forces [neutral forces] in rising up and staging a coup d'etat, overthrowing the Vientiane government on 9 August 1960. Hero Sithong led his men to fight until the end. The momentous incident, supported by the patriotic forces, became the torch of revolution quickly spreading throughout the country. It brought about a rapid change to the situation in Laos. The change in the situation led to the 1962 Geneva conference on Laos and then the formation of the tripartite government. At that time the role, influence, and name of the patriotic forces was made prominent in the international arena. Our Lao revolution had reached a new, unprecedented turning point.

The traditions, genuine character, loyalty, and spirit of heroic fighting of our army was once again proved in the event in which one company of the patriotic forces was sent to be stationed in the capital, Vientiane, as the representative of the patriotic forces in accordance with the 1962 agreement on an armistice and the reaching of national concord. The company fulfilled the duty of fighting the enemy politically. All cadres and combatants of the company showed their resolute determination and heroic, undaunted spirit in fighting the enemy on all fronts. They checked the enemy schemes to buy them off and threaten them day and night. They maintained their courage and their spirit of being loyal to the party and nation, while carrying out a propaganda campaign to build the revolutionary foundation. They thus gained the affection, trust, support, and assistance from more and more of the peace and justice-loving people of all strata.

Let us look back at some renowned, heroic operations launched during the national salvation war against the imperialist aggressors. During the war, our cadres and combatants marvelously sacrificed their blood and lives in exchange for independence. For example, in the operation to liberate Luang Namtha in May 1963, Battalion No. 13 was dispatched to defend the Phoukout stronghold. With their heroic fighting, the cadres and combatants of this battalion were named iron cadres and

combatants of the Phoukout stronghold. Next was the operation to defeat the effective forces of the enemy, namely, the neutral forces of the Vientiane government, in Hiam District, Houa Phan Province.

In late 1965 and the following year, more than a thousand enemy elements were put out of action there. At the same time, the heroic combatants of Battalion 705—namely, Comrade Bounleun and Comrade Bounlam—resolutely fought the enemy to defend the Phousoung position in Houa Phan Province. Next was the renowned combat operation to liberate the Phathi strategic area in March 1968. During the operation, we destroyed the radar system of the imperialists and heroically seized that important position. Later was the operation to liberate Nambak. During the operation, we captured as many as 3,000 and more enemy combatants. That victory inflicted severe pain on the imperialists and their henchmen.

In 1969, the war in Laos escalated to a high level. That year, the imperialists and their traitorous henchmen employed more than 50 battalions of their forces to launch nibbling attacks aimed at seizing the Plain of Jars-Xieng Khouang liberated area—an area covering three-fifths of Xieng Khouang Province. They named the operations “Koukiet” and (Odeon) operations. Nevertheless, our army and people heroically launched counterattacks against them and triumphantly re-liberated the area. Many comrade combatants from different units of our armed forces experienced sufferings. They suffered from starvation for weeks. Many of them suffered from wounds for four to five days before they reached hospitals. A large number of our combatants sacrificed their lives and gave their blood on that battlefield. The said operations crushed the schemes [word indistinct] of the imperialists and inflicted heavy losses on them.

Next was the Lamson-719 operation, which was launched in central Laos in early 1971. That operation was considered a strategic front between the two countries of Laos and Vietnam. With the operation, the imperialists and their henchmen hoped to divide and obstruct the movements of the struggle for national liberation of the Vietnamese people, whose forces had moved to southern Vietnam at that time to liberate that part of the country. Our army, coordinating with and fighting alongside the fraternal Vietnamese People's Army, defeated the operation in a short period of time, wiping out, capturing, and forcing to surrender hundreds of enemy soldiers. At the same time our army also crushed the Thanong Kiet operation in Xieng Khouang. In southern Laos, our army also triumphantly liberated Thateng, Lao Ngam, and other areas, thus increasingly expanding the liberated zone. Our army simultaneously engaged in fighting while improving its forces both in terms of quality and quantity.

During the historic turning point in 1975, our army served as one among three strategic blows and as a spearhead in the May revolutionary movement. In 1975, our army organized its forces to move to different

directions throughout the country at strategic times in order to crush the administrative apparatuses of the old regime. Our army acted as an iron force supporting the uprising movements so that they could successfully seize power throughout the country on 23 August 1975.

In the present cause of defending and building the country, our army has all along served as a solid force defending the country and the revolutionary gains. An example of this involved the operations launched to defend the fatherland in Boten District in 1987-88. These operations reflect the resolute, heroic, and unyielding spirit of our army. Following the operations, many comrades who were tested in combat were later named emulation combatants and heroes. All these proved the spirit of heroic fighting, purity, and steadfastness of our cadres and combatants throughout the army. The spirit of heroic fighting, purity, and steadfastness of our cadres and combatants has become a precious tradition for the next generation to follow.

On the occasion of the celebration of the 43d founding anniversary of the LPA this year, let all our emulation combatants and heroes positively maintain their traditions and roles and pay attention to educating and training the new generation to continue the spirit of heroism to continuously carry out the cause of defending and building the country in the future.

Philippines

Government Wants U.S. Firms To Remain in Subic

HK2201044992 Manila BUSINESS WORLD
in English 22 Jan 92 p 2

[By Mary Jane O. Llanes]

[Text] The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) is mapping out strategies to talk big American firms in Subic Naval Base into maintaining their respective operations here once the U.S. forces withdraw from the base in December.

These firms, which include major shipping companies American Presidential Lines (APL) and Sealand Service, Inc., currently operate within Subic.

DTI fears these companies will move their equipment out of Subic after the American forces pull out because of less business activity in the base.

Trade and Industry Secretary Peter D. Garrucho Jr., in an interview, said these companies may move operations to Cebu or neighboring countries such as Singapore.

He said the DTI will present before these firms a number of business opportunities available within the Subic premises even after the Americans' withdrawal. He said the DTI could work out a joint venture agreement with the companies involved as part of an offer for their continued stay here.

To date the DTI together with the National Development Co. (NDC) are working out a feasibility study for the development of both Clark Air Base and Subic as an industrial site.

Possible Businesses

Possible businesses that could be developed in the base include a containerized port operation which will be handled by the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) and the Department of Transportation and Communication (DOTC); ship repair and dry-docking; refuelling operations using the existing oil tank, and tourism operations at the El Grande Island.

He said there is a proposal to link ship repair and dry-docking facilities to the Philippine Shipyard Corp. operations.

However, whether these facilities will be moved out of Subic or sold to the Philippine Government, still has to be negotiated.

"We will be making an offer to the American Government and the private sector on those facilities and equipment which can be moved out," the secretary said.

Clark Estate

At the same time, the DTI signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Department of National Defense (DND) for the conversion of 450 hectares of property in Clark for industrial use.

The MOA delineates responsibilities over the geographical areas and facilities of Clark as part of the conversion program for the former U.S. military base.

Lead Agency

The DTI was given the lead agency role in developing the converted area in the 4,400 hectare base.

According to the Philippine Air Force proposal for the base's utilization, 2,415 hectares will be allotted for a civil aviation complex, 450 for an industrial estate, 157 hectares for housing, 350 hectares for military facilities, 250 hectares for parks and athletic fields.

The area allotted for housing purposes will accommodate about 5,000 families displaced by the Pinatubo episode.

Vacant warehouses, Mr Garrucho said, could be used immediately by industries such as furniture and "industries that would not have to worry so much about dust."

Government Recognizes Former Soviet Republics

HK2301062492 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY
in English 23 Jan 92 p 4

[By Arthur I. Bariuad]

[Text] The Philippine government yesterday extended diplomatic recognition to ten former Soviet republics

which are now part of the supra-national body, the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

In a statement released yesterday by the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus said the Philippines "recognizes as independent and sovereign states" the former Soviet republics of Ukraine, Byelorussia, Moldavia, Uzbekistan, Tadjikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan and Kazakstan.

"We wish these republics success in assuring their people's democracy, human rights and a free market economy. We trust that their membership in the international community of nations will contribute to peace and security not only to the region but also to the rest of the world," Manglapus said.

The Philippines late last month granted diplomatic recognition to the Russian Republic, the largest and most populous of the 11 republics which joined the CIS.

The latest move now links the Philippines with all former Soviet republics with the exception of Georgia, where a civil war is in progress. Foreign affairs officials said the Philippines had withheld recognition of Georgia until peace and stability is put in place.

The crumbling of the Soviet Union came after Kremlin insiders staged a coup last August against then President Mikhail Gorbachev which saw the three Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania immediately declaring their independence from the Union. The Soviet Union was eventually dissolved early in December last year when the 11 republics formed the CIS.

The Philippines signed joint communiques with the three republics in mid-December last year for the establishment of formal diplomatic relations with the three Baltic states. [sentence as published]

The government last month also issued a statement welcoming the formation of the CIS.

Military Plans To Build Bases on Spratlys

HK2201071492 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY
in English 22 Jan 92 p 3

[By Dario Agnote]

[Text] General Lisandro Abadia, Armed Forces chief of staff, yesterday said the military would build bases in at least eight islands of the Spratly group to strengthen the country's defense in the area in the wake of the recent oil strike in West Linapacan, Palawan.

Abadia said apart from this, the planned construction of the bases, which is estimated to cost P [Philippine pesos] 186 million, also aims to protect the country's vast fishing grounds in the area as well as match the capabilities of other Asian countries which, like the Philippines, also control some of the islands in the disputed territory.

Vietnam and China have been continuously building up their forces in the Spratlys and have set up permanent naval bases and built runways for medium-size aircraft and helicopters.

Malaysia has also announced its intention to develop some of the islands it holds, not for military purposes, however, but for tourism.

The original proposal to fortify defenses of at least eight Philippine-held islands in the Spratlys came from Brigadier General Braulio Balbas, the outgoing Western Command (Wescom) commander.

Balbas, who is retiring next month, prepared a three-phased base development plan to improve the military's capability in the disputed area. It calls for construction of runways, bunkers, and other permanent structures for military purposes.

The first phase, which would cost about P77.7 million, would transform Pag-Asa and Parola islands, the two largest islands and the closest to the Vietnamese-held islands, into virtual mini-naval and air bases.

Pag-Asa already has a runway to accommodate light aircraft like the Australian-made Nomad planes and this would be expanded to take in additional and more regular air traffic.

The air base would also serve a small Filipino community in the island, he said.

A mini-naval base would be also constructed to ferry soldiers as well as to bring supplies to air force and marine personnel stationed in these islands.

The second phase, costing P48.6 million, would develop army bases in Rizal, Kota and Panata islands, while the last phase, with a proposed budget of P61.7 million, would improve existing military facilities in Patag, Likas and Lawag islands.

Apart from these permanent military structures, emplacements for machineguns and light artillery batteries would also be constructed. Communications and early warning systems, like radars, would also be set up in these islands.

Watch towers, search lights and other support facilities are also included in the plan which would serve as the country's first line of defense against external aggression.

The Philippines is one of at least five Asian countries claiming the chain of islands. The others are Vietnam, Malaysia, China, and Taiwan. All maintained a military presence in the area.

In fact, Chinese naval forces clashed with Vietnamese troops in the area three to four years ago.

Abadia said the situation in the area remained volatile because of the heavy military presence of both Vietnam and China. But he does not foresee any regional conflict arising from the area because the governments of the five

nations have agreed to settle the controversy through peaceful and diplomatic channels.

China, for instance, has a proposal for the five nations to jointly develop the disputed area, which is believed to have rich oil and mineral deposits.

But more importantly, the disputed area served as a major choke point of the region's important sealanes of communications (SLOC).

Japan used the islands in staging its conquest of Malaya and the Philippines during the World War II some 50 years ago and continued to use the nearby sealanes to transport its oil from the Persian Gulf and deliver its goods back to the Middle East.

Abadia said the recent discovery of huge oil deposits with high commercial value in West Linapacan has made it more necessary for the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] to establish credible military presence in the disputed territory to protect the country's sovereignty as well as its economic interests.

House Committees Voice Caution

HK2301071192 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 22 Jan 92

[Text] Tension may increase between countries claiming the Spratly Islands due to the reported discovery of oil off its shores. In a joint hearing by the House Committee on Foreign Affairs and the House Committee on Defense, both bodies agreed to channel discussions on this matter through ASEAN diplomatic channels in order to avoid any conflict. Both committees also cautioned the military with regard to its request to strengthen forces on the Spratly Islands in order to protect our interests in the oil discovery.

Commodore Carlos Agustin of the Coast Guard said that military personnel stationed by Taiwan and Vietnam on the islands outnumber those of the Philippines.

Editorial Views Spratlys Issue

HK2301052492 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English 23 Jan 92 p 4

[Editorial: "Working Together in the Spratlys"]

[Text] On the eve of the summit of ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) heads of state in Singapore, Malaysia and Vietnam have agreed to develop jointly their territorial claims on the Spratly Islands instead of fighting over them. The agreement is an auspicious preliminary event for the meeting, which will address new security problems aimed at averting conflicts in Southeast Asia.

The Spratly Islands, in which several countries including the Philippines, Brunei, Taiwan, and China have staked territorial claims, are a potential flashpoint for conflicts. All these countries have posted military garrisons which are being strengthened to reinforce their claims.

This military buildup has prompted the armed forces to plan for the construction of new bases on at least eight islands. The Spratly chain encompasses a seabed rich in marine and mineral resources, especially oil. Offshore explorations are under way within or near the islands. The recent significant oil strike off West Linapacan, northern Palawan, has underlined Philippine preparations to strengthen its garrison on some of the islands.

There are two ways to approach the problem of overlapping claims. The first is to fight over them. This approach feeds an armament race among the countries with territorial claims. The other is joint exploitation and development of resources, not only between Malaysia and Vietnam, but also among all claimants. The encouraging sign is that both Malaysia and Vietnam have recognized the importance of cooperation. As the Vietnamese foreign minister, Nguyen Manh Cam, puts it so well, "It is better to work together and reap the benefits instead of wasting our time and energy quarreling."

The other significant aspect of the agreement is that it has established another link for economic cooperation between non-communist Asean and the communist part of Southeast Asia at a time when expansion of Asean to include socialist states in the region is being considered by Asean. Vietnam has applied for membership in Asean.

There is no lack of models on joint development of resources. One of these is the joint Timor seabed development agreement between Australia and Indonesia over the exploitation of oil resources in the Timor sea. This agreement was forged despite the political tensions between the two countries over the human rights violations in East Timor, now an Indonesian province. The recent massacre of protesters in Timor by the Indonesian army has outraged Australian public opinion, and the Indonesian government has resented what it calls Australian meddling in its internal affairs.

One of the main concerns of the Asean summit is to form a regional security arrangement that will stabilize the relationship of nations in Asia in view of the end of the Cold War and the reduction of the military forces and facilities of the two former superpowers—the United States and the now dissolved Soviet Union. As the new power balance in the Asia-Pacific region evolves, Asean is concerned that regional stability, which ensured economic growth, is not disturbed by a new armaments race among countries in the region.

If tensions rise over the Spratlys, the Philippines will be compelled to increase forces on the islands to project a credible military presence, if only to protect the mineral resources from poaching and to deter territorial violations. Given its overstretched budgetary resources, the Philippines cannot afford to engage in an arms race. Its territorial and economic interests are better served by a regional consortium for sharing in the development of the resources of disputed territories.

Manglapus Views Prospects for Asian Peace Zone

HK2201071192 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY
in English 22 Jan 92 p 3

[By Arthur I. Bariuad]

[Text] Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus yesterday said the establishment of a zone of peace, freedom and neutrality (ZOPFAN) in Southeast Asia cannot be realized within the next few years because of the recent move of Singapore to allow an expanded U.S. military presence in its territory.

"There's debate going on now between some elements in Southeast Asia including some in Singapore and Malaysia as to the timing of the achievement of ZOPFAN, particularly in view of the recent action taken by Singapore in signing an agreement with the United States," Manglapus said.

In 1971, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), then barely five years old, signed in Kuala Lumpur a joint declaration calling for the establishment of a ZOPFAN in Southeast Asia in an effort to protect the region from an unwanted involvement in any U.S.-Soviet confrontation.

Under the Kuala Lumpur declaration, ASEAN members vowed to exert efforts to make "Southeast Asia a zone of peace, freedom and neutrality, free from any form or manner of interference by outside powers."

But analysts say the end of the Cold War has practically made ZOPFAN obsolete and efforts are being made to reassess the concept of a nuclear-free zone with the emerging unipolar world order.

Manglapus, however, stressed that the achievement of ZOPFAN remains valid, adding that his proposal to form a regional security forum among ASEAN members will complement ZOPFAN.

"I don't think ZOPFAN necessarily excludes the reality of regional security," Manglapus said. "The matter of regional security has to be confronted by ASEAN countries," he added.

Manglapus pointed out that "ZOPFAN is a long-range plan." Asked what was the timetable for the achievement of ASEAN's goal, he said the "timing is being debated" among ASEAN members largely because of the Singapore-U.S. accord.

Singapore and Washington announced early this month an expanded U.S. military presence in the city-state under the framework of an agreement signed between the two countries in November 1990.

The establishment of ZOPFAN has been anchored on the elimination from the region of permanent foreign military bases which the ASEAN considers as being merely "temporary."

Manglapus, who leaves for Singapore today for the ASEAN ministerial meeting preceding the fourth ASEAN Summit, is expected to push his proposal for a security cooperation agreement in the region.

Manglapus, an advocate of U.S. military presence in the region, has repeatedly said the impending withdrawal of American forces and installations from Subic Naval Base has made it imperative for ASEAN to forge a security arrangement.

He said closer economic cooperation among ASEAN members—the Philippines, Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Singapore—could not take off without a “regional security consensus.”

Aquino To Urge ASEAN To Call for UN Force

HK2301044892 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY in English 23 Jan 92 p 4

[By Arthur I. Bariuad]

[Text] The Philippines will urge heads of state of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to issue an international call for the deployment “as soon as possible” of UN peacekeeping forces to Cambodia to avert the possible breakdown of a fragile peace in the war-torn nation, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said yesterday.

The Foreign Office, reacting to renewed hostilities between government troops and the Khmer Rouge militias in central Cambodia, said there is an urgent need to deploy UN peacekeeping forces to facilitate the implementation of the Paris peace agreement.

Foreign Affairs officials said the resumption of fighting was a serious violation of the ceasefire agreement signed in Paris last October ending the 20-year-old civil war which devastated Cambodia and killed thousands.

Earlier, Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Pablo Suarez said there have already been serious violations of the Paris peace agreement signed by Cambodia’s four warring factions, which threaten to shatter ASEAN’s hopes for a stable and peaceful Cambodia.

Suarez said President Aquino will spearhead an international call during the ASEAN Summit in Singapore next week to speed up the deployment of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), a military and civilian peacekeeping force, to monitor the implementation of the Paris ceasefire agreement.

“President Aquino will urge heads of state during their Summit in Singapore to issue a statement regarding the need to deploy the UNTAC as quickly as possible to ensure peace and stability in Cambodia,” Suarez said.

Suarez who was in Phnom Penh last week was apprised by Prince Norodom Sihanouk, chairman of the Supreme National Council (SNC), over the situation in Cambodia.

The Filipino diplomat stressed that inasmuch as the ASEAN has gone a long way to go in seeking an end to the 20-year-old conflict in Southeast Asia’s most troubled nation, “it is time for us (ASEAN members) to support this peace effort.”

Manila’s move to urge the immediate dispatch of UN troops to Cambodia came following the appeal of Sihanouk to “use the good offices of the ASEAN to immediately deploy the UNTAC to Cambodia in order to facilitate the implementation of the Paris agreement,” Suarez said.

According to Suarez, Sihanouk “expressed concern that if the UNTAC will not be deployed immediately, the implementation of the Paris peace agreement may break down,” adding that there are already “violations of the ceasefire accord” by the Hun Sen administration and the Khmer Rouge militias.

Japan Considering Reduction in Assistance

OW2101112692 Tokyo KYODO in English 1043 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Text] Manila, Jan. 21 KYODO—The continuing inability of the Philippine Government to maximize its use of Official Development Assistance (ODA) from Japan will lead to a cut in concessional loans and grants from Tokyo, a Japanese diplomat warned Tuesday.

Takeshi Yagi of the Japanese Embassy in Manila said the Philippines has not been able to deal with Tokyo’s rapid increase of ODA during the past five years.

“This situation does not justify the increase in Japanese ODA to the Philippines,” Yagi told Filipino reporters.

“If this continues in the next two to three years, the logical conclusion is that the Philippines cannot absorb the ODA and we have to consider reducing the ODA,” he said.

From 1986 to 1990, Japan’s ODA commitments to Manila expanded from 311 million dollars to 1.25 billion dollars. Of the 1990 figure, 1.10 billion dollars represents concessional loans and 150 million dollars are grants in the form of grants-aid and technical cooperation.

Of the total 2.15 billion dollars committed by Japan during the last two pledging sessions for the Philippines, actual disbursements as of September 1991 amounted to 495.60 million dollars, of which 22 percent has been used.

Yagi called government officials’ attention to address nagging problems such as lack of peso counterpart funds required by Japanese financial institutions, environmental impact, and contract procedures in bidding for projects.

"We have pointed out to Philippine officials that we have been increasing loan packages to the Philippines and we are really concerned about the low utilization," Yagi said.

Japan is the Philippines' biggest official creditor and the donor giving the biggest financial support. Any cut in Japanese ODA may influence other donors to the Philippines to follow Tokyo's lead.

Church Ready To Thwart Marcos Presidential Bid

HK2301090392 Manila DZXL Radio Mindano
Network in Tagalog 0700 GMT 23 Jan 92

[Text] The Catholic Church has taken steps to thwart the possible victory of former First Lady Imelda Romualdez Marcos in the coming polls.

Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin gave a speech reminding people of the various acts of deceit perpetrated by the former regime, acts which resulted in the EDSA [Epifanio de los Santos Avenue] Revolution. He also said that the last vestiges of the Marcos regime have already been purged from the country; therefore, it is illogical that they be reinstated to power. The archbishop also expressed fears that if the opposition wins, more problems might befall the country.

Court Files More Charges Against Imelda Marcos

HK2301085992 Manila DZXL Radio Mindanao
Network in Tagalog 0700 GMT 23 Jan 92

[Text] Former First Lady Imelda Marcos was formally charged with four counts of graft in the Antigraft Court in relation to a leasehold rights anomaly in the Light Rail Transit Authority [LRTA]. The ombudsman was able to prove that there is prima facie evidence against Mrs. Marcos in view of the establishment of the Philippine General Hospital Foundation Incorporated, which acted as the middleman in transactions with LRTA and the tenants holding leasehold rights of its commercial establishments. In the said transaction, the LRTA lost about 13.4 million pesos. Ombudsman Conrado Vasquez also filed four counts against Jose Dans, former transportation minister and LRTA vice chairman, for violating Republic Act 3019 and conspiring with Mrs. Marcos to get the profits from the LRTA during 1982.

Aquino Fails in Attempt To Unite Candidates

HK2301063592 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino
People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 22 Jan 92

[Excerpt] President Aquino has failed to convince Speaker Ramon Mitra Jr., former Chief Justice Marcelo Fernan, and former Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos to form one ticket. The president invited the three presidential hopefuls to dinner at her home in Arlegui Street. The 75-minute meeting ended with no clear picture of which of the three would be endorsed by the president.

President Aquino is expected to name the candidate of her choice for May's presidential election after her birthday mass on Saturday. According to Congressman Antonio Aquino, the dinner was arranged by Congressman Jose Cojuangco after a discussion with Mrs. Aquino last Tuesday night. President Aquino has said that she hopes her friends will back her chosen candidate. [passage omitted]

Manglapus Threatens Resignation

HK2301112692 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company
DZRH in Tagalog 0900 GMT 23 Jan 92

[Text] Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus has said outright that he will resign if President Corazon Aquino endorses either former Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos or House Speaker Ramon Mitra Jr. on her birthday, 25 January. According to Manglapus, the present administration will be shamed if he and President Aquino support different candidates. It will be recalled that Manglapus endorsed former Chief Justice Marcelo Fernan even before the latter announced his political plans. At present, Manglapus is in Singapore to attend the ASEAN ministerial meeting in preparation for the summit meeting of the Southeast Asian countries.

Senator Enrile on Split in Nacionalista Party

HK2101064792 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company
DZRH in Tagalog 0030 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Interview with Senate Minority Floor Leader Juan Ponce Enrile by host Joe Taruc on the "Liberty in Action" program—live]

[Excerpt] [Joe Taruc] Okay, Mr. Senator, we will go straight to the point. What is your current position and belief regarding your candidacy? Are you really not going to run for president? Is there any chance that you might change your mind?

[Juan Ponce Enrile] You know, Joe, our problem now, and also my personal problem, is that up to this time the Commission on Elections has not yet made a decision on our case. And I do not know if I have a party, because I was expelled from the Nacionalista Party. If the decision made is against us, then I do not have a party. Within this time it is a bit too late to organize a party, you must have a wide organization in order to have a chance. So, that is my problem now. It is my opinion that time is so short.

[Taruc] Will there be any chance that the Nacionalista Party can put up just one presidential candidate?

[Enrile] In my opinion, there is no chance because I believe the rift between the factions in the Nacionalista Party is too deep and the other parties no longer want to attend the convention that is supposed to be set by the party, so it is already impossible. And you have to assume that the party is already divided. Therefore, in my opinion it is too late to have a unification. [passage omitted]

'Love Triangle' Alleged as Motive for Kidnapping*HK2201144192 Manila DZXL Radio Mindanao
Network in Tagalog 0700 GMT 22 Jan 92*

[Text] Police say a love triangle is a possible reason for the kidnapping of Michael Barnes, an American executive of Philippine Geothermal Incorporated. According to an anonymous policeman, Barnes is a macho American who slept with the girlfriend or mistress of a high government official. As a result of this development there is no truth to there being a political color to, or economic sabotage being the motive in the kidnapping of Barnes.

According to columnist Danny Hernandez, some informants of the Criminal Investigation Service said that they do not know what to do when they meet Barnes' abductors.

According to another police informant, this government official who was cuckolded by Barnes was also very close to the administration.

NBI to Impose News Blackout*HK2201144592 Manila DZXL Radio Mindanao
Network in Tagalog 0700 GMT 22 Jan 92*

[Text] The National Bureau of Investigation [NBI] will now implement a news blackout on the case of Michael Barnes, an American executive who was kidnapped recently. The move aims to avoid any complications which may be brought about by the different views issued by those conducting the investigation. Earlier, the Philippine National Police leadership assigned about 100 special agents to locate Barnes, as well as the suspects' hideout. It will be recalled that on Friday, 17 January, Barnes was kidnapped by an armed group in front of his office in Makati, Metro Manila. The NBI added that temporarily, the agency would not issue any report on the Barnes case to avoid public doubts on the actions being carried out by Task Force Barnes.

Kidnapping Threatens Stability*HK2201051392 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English
22 Jan 92 p 4*

[Editorial: "Barnes Kidnap Raises Doubts About Our Stability"]

[Text] Whatever group kidnapped the American business executive Michael Barnes could not have chosen a better time to deliver another shattering blow to the country's efforts to establish political stability and revive the economy.

As indicated by reputable public opinion surveys, the rise of crime has become one of the foremost concerns of Filipinos, especially those living in Metro Manila. A growing number of Filipinos do not feel safe out in the streets and even in their own homes. There has also been

a rise in kidnapping of Filipinos, especially ethnic Chinese businessmen, for ransom. Many of these kidnappings have not been reported, and victims have been freed after giving huge ransom money.

But the kidnapping of Mr Barnes has introduced both a political and an economic dimension to the crime landscape. Mr Barnes represents the Philippine Geothermal, Inc., a company engaged in the development of geothermal resources to augment energy supplies and reduce the country's dependence on imported crude oil. Some groups have opposed the company's project in forest areas, citing environmental reasons.

Conflicts between environmental concerns and development projects are not new in Third World countries seeking to speed up economic growth, but attacks on executives of such projects hardly either promote the cause of the environmentalists and their champions or serve the interests of resource development projects. Both are losers. Indeed, the wave of international terrorism to push liberation or radical movements has waned and has become less effective in achieving political objectives.

Because of the association of Mr Barnes' company with the controversial project, it is easy, if not convenient, to blame the radical left for the kidnapping. In fact, police authorities are wont to make these conclusions, despite indications that syndicates of lawmen might be behind it.

So, before we jump to conclusions, it is well to wait for evidence and to remember that there is no single theory about the kidnapping. It has to be pointed out, however, that the kidnapping has jolted our halting steps towards economic recovery, especially the effort to win foreign investment. Those responsible for the kidnapping could not have selected a better target to damage economic recovery.

Let there be no ignoring the fact that the international community is watching political and economic events in this country to get some clues about whether it is gaining political stability. Investors, of course, want continuity, predictability and stability of economic policy, but they also want to be assured that their staffs are safe.

The reaction expressed by some Japanese businessmen that they are more concerned about the outcome of the election in terms of continuity of so-called "democratic space" and fair play in access to economic opportunities is a heartening point. But, over the immediate term, the Barnes kidnapping cannot but cause more worries to investors.

Thus far, there has been a large volume of noise by police authorities in their campaign to crack the case, but if the investigation leads to producing scapegoats, this would only erode further Filipino domestic and international confidence in our capacity not only to maintain law and order but also to ensure a secure climate for economic recovery. The Barnes kidnapping is not merely a law and

order challenge to the police. It is a crime that calls to question our capacity to establish political and economic stability.

Aquino Urges Implementing Local Government Code
HK2301051492 Manila MANILA BULLETIN
in English 23 Jan 92 pp 1, 14

[By Fred Lobo]

[Text] President Aquino called yesterday for the full implementation of the new Local Government Code to serve as a linchpin of progress and prosperity.

The President issued the call as Malacanang released the rules and regulations implementing the new Code in a meeting-dialogue with Cabinet and local government officials.

"We consider the Code as the linchpin of our political program. Much depends on how successful we are in implementing it. These include the momentum for progress and prosperity that we have started more than five years ago," Mrs Aquino said.

The President said that the full implementation of the Code will fulfill the government's commitment of "meaningful decentralization" to give greater role to local government units (LGU).

The President directed all national agencies affected by the implementation of the Local Government Code to submit a list of basic services which could be transferred to LGUs within six months.

Mrs Aquino stressed that the devolution of powers to LGUs must be completed not later than Dec. 31 this year, in accordance with the new law.

Mrs Aquino said the coming together of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and government agencies for a dialogue on the new Code to iron out remaining "kinks" for a full implementation of the law was one of final steps towards achieving meaningful decentralization.

"As we devolve both powers and responsibilities to our local government units, we give fuller meaning to our restored democracy," Aquino said.

The President also sought to assure government workers in affected agencies that "their tenure and career development shall be amply protected."

"I therefore direct...the mandatory absorption of LGUs of these personnel; those who are not absorbed shall be retained by the national government agencies," she said.

Thailand

UN Envoy Lauds Role in Cambodian Peace Efforts

BK2301075492 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network
in English 0000 GMT 23 Jan 92

[Text] UN special envoy Yasushi Akashi has expressed his satisfaction over Thailand's leading role in bringing peace to Cambodia and helping in the reconstruction of Cambodia.

Mr. Akashi left for Cambodia from Bangkok yesterday to hold consultations with UN advance mission in Cambodia and meet leaders of Cambodian factions.

He said UN is likely to provide U.S. \$1 billion in assistance for Cambodia. So far, many developed countries, such as France and Australia, have expressed intention to offer assistance to Cambodia in the form of transport and communications facilities.

After a meeting with Mr. Akashi, Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin said Thailand welcomes the UN participation in solving Cambodian problems as the move will bring peace to the region as a whole.

He said Thailand is helping Cambodia in the repair works on the Poipet-Sisophon section of Route 5 in Cambodia. It will also join UN operations in clearing landmines along the Thai-Cambodian border to facilitate the repatriation of Cambodian displaced persons being sheltered in Thailand.

Cambodian Government Favors Thai Banks

BK2201012192 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
22 Jan 92 p 19

[Text] The Cambodian Government has agreed to a recommendation of the Bank of Thailand to allow Thai commercial banks to help develop the monetary system in that country in order to enable it to cope with an expected boom in trading and investment activities there.

Bank of Thailand Governor Wichit Suphanit, who made a three-day official visit to Cambodia, said he made the recommendation at the request of top authorities of that country.

"I have suggested that a reform is needed for that country's entire monetary system. The foreign-exchange control, bank supervision, financial institute structure and accounting systems all need to be revamped to cope with the expected increase in trading and investment activities there," Mr Wichit said.

As Cambodia's economic system is a socialist one, it has only special-purpose banks such as the Bank for International Trade. But now it is liberalising its economy, so the Cambodian authorities were told that a commercial bank system is necessary, he added.

"To help speed up the development, I told them that foreign commercial banks should be allowed to open branches there," he said.

The Cambodian authorities agreed to Mr Wichit's recommendation and said Thai commercial banks would be given high priority to open branches in that country.

So far, the Cambodian Government has given approval to Bangkok Bank and Thai Military Bank to open branches in that country, while Siam Commercial Bank has entered a joint venture with the Cambodian Central Bank in setting up a commercial bank, called "Cambodian Commercial Bank," in Phnom Penh and Thai Farmers Bank will also establish a joint-venture bank with the Cambodian Central Bank soon.

Besides, Krung Thai Bank and Siam City Bank have sought permission from the Cambodian Government to open branches there and are expected to receive it soon.

Mr Wichit said the Bank of Thailand had agreed to provide training for Cambodian monetary officials and agreed in principle to print banknotes for its central bank. "Top authorities of Cambodia will come to hold detailed talks with the Bank of Thailand this month."

He personally believes that Cambodia has a high potential to develop its economy because the country is rich in natural resources.

"Cambodia has already restructured its economic system. The centralised system has been scrapped and replaced with a free market one, so it needs to change all regulations concerned. The Bank of Thailand will play a role in helping it restructure its monetary system," he noted.

The Bank of Thailand will report its agreement with the Cambodian Government to the Finance Ministry this week, Mr Wichit said.

Army To Limit Mine-Clearing Role in Cambodia

*BK2301023792 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
23 Jan 92 p 6*

[Text] The Thai Army's role in clearing landmines in Cambodia will be limited to areas along the 48-kilometre road from Poipet to Sisophon, Deputy Defence Minister Wimon Wongwanit said yesterday.

Gen Wimon was responding to comments that Thai engineering corps members would be in danger implementing this aspect of the United Nations' peace plan.

Asked who would be held responsible if Thai soldiers are killed or wounded while clearing mines, Gen Wimon said this had not been discussed in detail.

He also said the Army will decide which unit will handle the task.

The Thai Government has agreed to provide 144 million baht to repair the Poipet-Sisophon highway.

The UN secretary-general's special representative, Yasushi Akashi, who heads the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia, said Thai soldiers would be deployed in Cambodia next month.

New Economic Zone With Indochina, Japan Proposed

*BK1901015792 Bangkok THE NATION in English
19 Jan 92 pp A1, A2*

[By Watchara Charunsantikun]

[Text] Khao Yai—Thailand has proposed to Japan the establishment of a new economic zone comprising 10 countries in the western Asia-Pacific rim and the three Indochinese countries to help revive the latter's economies, a senior government official said yesterday.

The proposal was made public at a seminar on "Thailand's Northeast: New Gateway to Indochina", which was jointly organized by Thai Investment and Securities Co (TISCO) and the National Economic and Social Development Board (NESDB).

NESDB secretary general Phisit Phakkasem said at the seminar that Japan has already agreed to his agency's proposal.

Phisit said the economic zone, the brainchild of NESDB, will not be another economic bloc but a partnership where member countries will work together in the development of the Indochinese nations' economies.

Phisit, however, did not reveal which countries will [be] members of the proposed economic zone but said China will also help support the grouping.

He said NESDB will act as the coordinator in working out the policy for Thailand to push for the actual implementation of the plan.

Meanwhile, Chakkramon Phasukwanit, deputy secretary general of the Board of Investment (BoI), said his agency has already mapped out a master plan to act as a guideline for the Thai private sector to invest in Indochina.

According to Chakkramon, the master plan outlines four strategies for the development of Thailand's economic cooperation with Indochina.

The first strategy is to promote Thai trade and investment in Indochinese countries.

The second, he said, involves Thailand's assistance to Indochina in the forms of economic consultation, the formulation of economic development plans and the implementation of development projects such as the upgrading of public health systems.

Chakkramon said Thailand has set aside Bt [baht] 200 million from its 1992 fiscal budget, to be combined with last year's allocation of about Bt300-400 million, to finance its technical assistance to Indochina. BoI, he said, will also try to push for an annual increase in the budget for such assistance programmes for Indochina.

Chakkramon said the third strategy focuses on strengthening economic relations between Thailand and Indochina while BoI will send missions to the three Indochinese neighbours to establish channels of direct contact between Thailand and the region under the fourth strategy.

Chakkramon said it was highly likely that Thailand will become the gateway to Indochina as the completion of two roads linking Thailand and that region as well as a bridge across the Mekong River, now under construction, will turn the Northeast into a large industrial zone where huge foreign investment is expected to pour in with intensified border trade.

He said potential areas for Thai investment in Laos include construction and wood processing while in Cambodia emphasis should be given to forestry, fisheries and gems mining.

Chakkramon said Vietnam serves as the potential investment zone in seafood production, fisheries, natural gas and energy development, consumer goods production, agricultural equipment production and tourism. The country, he said, has a large number of skilled workers while the labour cost is low.

Chakkramon added that Thailand's 22 border checkpoints along its common borders with Laos, Cambodia, Malaysia and Burma will also play a concrete role in helping expand Thai trade to Indochina in the future.

Philippe Annez, head of World Bank's regional mission in Bangkok, said the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund are pressuring Vietnam to adjust its administrative system by giving the central government more power than the local administrations so that the country can set a national policy on investment promotion.

Foreign investors have not been confident about investing in Vietnam as they complained that the local governments seems to have too much power to decide on investment projects.

Annez, however, said he saw bright investment prospects in Vietnam as that country had amended its laws and reformed its bureaucratic systems last year, moves which will help promote the growth of investment in the future.

Annez said Thailand should decide to invest more in the three Indochinese countries now and Thai investors should consider the investments as projects that can generate long-term benefits rather than trying to take advantage of those countries.

Thailand should also provide technical assistance and transfer technology to Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam or the country may lose a good opportunity in strengthening its economic bases in those neighbouring nations.

Noritada Morita, the Asian Development Bank's director of Programmes Department, meanwhile, said his organization will soon call a meeting of the six

ASEAN members in the Philippines to discuss the regional grouping's cooperation in NESDB's proposal to revive Indochina's economy.

Morita urged Thailand to increase its investment in Indochina, saying the country should not worry about Indochinese countries becoming its competitors as Thailand's gross domestic product (GDP) is already five or six times higher than Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam.

Thailand's economic growth of 8 per cent was also considered a suitable rate for the country and even if it registered an annual growth of 5 per cent, Morita said Thailand would still be able to expand its investment into Indochina.

Morita said "spirit" may be a key word for the economic development of the Indochinese region and Thai businessmen should not try to take advantage of their counterparts in Indochina as he believed Thailand would finally have to work together with Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam for the growth and prosperity of this region.

Investors Urged To Look to Indochina

*BK2101021392 Bangkok THE NATION in English
21 Jan 92 p B10*

[Text] Indochina holds great potential market for Thai investors in agricultural goods, textiles and garments, construction, jewellery, tourism and such development projects as irrigation, according to a recent seminar titled "Thailand's Northeast: New Gateway to Indochina" held at Khao Yai.

Phisit Phakkasem, secretary general of the National Economic and Social Development Board (NESDB), said the three Indochinese countries have recently started to develop their economic systems, offering Thai investors solid opportunities in these markets.

Laos is suitable for investment in dairy products, textiles and garments because it already has a number of dairy farms and seven textile and garment plants.

The Vietnamese market is seen as having the highest potential as a result of economic reforms underway since 1986. Phisit suggested that the jewellery, construction, irrigation and textile and garment industries be given priority by investors in Vietnam.

Moreover, Vietnam is also suitable for investment in service and tourism-related industries such as hotels, restaurants, tour agencies and tourism spot development.

There is already a good deal of trade occurring along the border between Thailand and Cambodia and this is expected to expand. However, the Cambodian government expects even more investment from Thailand and wants to be contacted through the Supreme National Council (SNC).

He noted that these three countries need Thailand to provide technology transfers, management methods and know-how while Thai investors could benefit from cheap raw materials and labour in Indochina.

Tourism is another interesting line of investment in the three nations because of their ancient cultures, historic sites and undeveloped lifestyles, all of which attract tourists. Nonetheless, he believes that this sector could be riskier and take longer for development.

Phisit said the Thai government has changed its policy towards the Indochinese countries, noting that the Friendship Bridge project between Thailand and Laos is under construction and that the Asian Development Bank may provide funds for another bridge project linking Mukdaharn with Laos.

He expressed the belief that construction of bridges will help Thai-Lao relations expand into other areas.

Thai-Vietnamese ties have also been boosted by a trade and investment joint committee which meets frequently. Even though the overlapping waters issue has not been settled, the Vietnamese government has proposed joint development in fisheries.

Moreover, the Thai government plans to use the Northeast as a base for trade and transportation between Thailand and Indochina via deep-harbour development, the Laem Chabang port development plan, and the upgrading of Utapao airport to an international airport.

The Thai government has reduced the number of items on the strategic goods list to 29 and announced further deregulation in trade and investment.

Noritada Morita, director of the programme department at ADB, commented that Vietnam is the most attractive country for investors and Thais should join hands with Vietnamese partners. He also proposed that the Thai and Vietnamese governments join in the development of the Red River triangle for industrial and transport purposes.

Morita said he would like to encourage Thai investors to move into the financial and banking sector because it is undeveloped in the Indochinese nations and their economies depend on a sound financial and banking system.

Moreover, he said last year's economic growth in Thailand would ensure that it has the means to help the Indochinese countries.

Meanwhile, the World Bank's Chief of Mission for Thailand and Indochina, Phillip A. Annez said several economic development barriers remain in Indochina such as inflation and poor financial and banking management which have brought on rapid changes, especially in Laos and Vietnam.

Fishing Firms Sign Accords With Vietnam

*BK2301022992 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
23 Jan 92 p 14*

[Text] At least five Thai privately owned fishery firms have signed agreements with Vietnamese authorities although both countries have yet to reach a fishery agreement at the government level, Fishery Department Director-General Plotprasop Suratsawadi said yesterday.

But he noted that the private companies could merge together and join the government-controlled fishery firm if a government-level agreement has been reached later.

Mr Plotprasop said he had learned that these private companies had signed agreements with Vietnamese authorities following successful direct negotiations.

He said a government-level agreement could not be reached yet because of the internal problems of Vietnam.

He said Vietnamese authorities were, meanwhile, not confident in the Thai side's capability to control its fishing fleet.

Besides, there are still complications involving the territorial waters of both countries, which have yet to be resolved.

Dr Plotprasop added that another obstacle was the principle of joint fishery ventures.

Under the Thai principle, fishery joint ventures can be signed only with a central body set up by the Thai Government, but such a body has not been established yet, while Vietnam is not yet ready to enter such deals.

Movie Industry Expands SRV Market

*BK2101014792 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
21 Jan 92 p 19*

[Text] The Thai film industry has expanded its market into Vietnam as a way of spreading Thai culture among Vietnamese with hopes for spin-offs in sales of Thai consumer goods.

This strategy is being applied by 175 Holding Co, a joint venture between the Thai Rice Mill Association [TRMA] and Kantana Co, a leading Thai film producer.

According to THANSET-THAKIT weekly, TRMA president Nippon Wongtrangan said the joint venture has already been awarded a concession from the Vietnamese Government to distribute Thai films to 1,400 theatres throughout that country.

Mr Nippon said the main aim of the joint venture was to distribute consumer goods in Vietnam.

"Now we have the concession, Thai films will help make Vietnamese familiar with the culture and that will make it easier to distribute Thai consumer goods in that country, which has a market size of 60 million people."

He said 175 Holding Co has already approached several major consumer product manufacturers to export their goods through the firm.

Kantana Co managing director Charuk Kancharuk said his company is interested in investing in movie production in Vietnam.

He said high-ranking Vietnamese officials last year approached the company to invest in film production in that country. However, he did not make a decision at that time because he was not confident in Vietnam's monetary system. The situation has now improved.

National Assembly Member on Aid for Russia

*BK2201103792 Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai
18 Jan 92 p 3*

[Text] Before attending a National Legislative Assembly [NLA] session at Parliament on 17 January, NLA member Phichai Watsanamong granted an interview to reporters about a recent request from U.S. President George Bush that Thailand join the international community in granting economic assistance to Russia.

Phichai said that ahead of anything else, we have to take good care of ourselves before we extend help to Russia. "Such a request is somewhat like the practice of persuading people to donate money for a traditional robe offering and merit-making for a Buddhist temple. Because it is suffering an economic setback, the United States is unable to render full help to Russia by itself. As for Thailand, it is in no position to render any material assistance to Russia but could only lend advice on how to improve the tourism business there. That would enable the country to help itself greatly," said Phichai.

The NLA member went on to say that at present, the countries that need Thailand's help most are our neighboring countries: Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia. All these countries are facing problems caused by the United States and the former Soviet Union. Help for our neighboring countries includes defusing landmines and providing economic assistance.

Asked about the Thai Foreign Ministry's proposed assistance to Russia in the form of rice, food, and technical expertise, Phichai said this is a very significant plan, but it would be like pouring a cup of water on desert ground. Russia is an extraordinarily vast country. Not only that, it is divided into 11 or 12 independent states. Asked what Thailand could expect in long-term benefits, Phichai responded that the two countries already have bilateral relations. If requested for aid in terms of rice, Thailand can respond but may not give the rice for free. Thailand may be able to grant assistance based on certain conditions that need to be worked out through negotiations, concluded the NLA member.

Battle Forces Over 200 Karens Into Country

*BK2301021192 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
23 Jan 92 p 6*

[Text] Chumphon—More than 200 Karen villagers have fled into Tha Sae District since early this week following a fierce battle between Karen National Union [KNU] rebels and Burmese soldiers, Border Patrol Police [BPP] said yesterday.

About 300 Thai villagers in border villages near the battle site also left their houses for safe areas away from the border after the fighting began last weekend.

Heavy fighting between Karen rebels and Burmese soldiers continued yesterday.

BPP units have also been sent to a border hill inside Thai territory to verify reports that some Burmese soldiers have dug in to try to use it as a springboard to attack the Karens.

The report said that two uniformed Burmese soldiers were captured by the BPP after clashing with the police near Hill 491 on Tuesday. The Burmese reportedly have held positions on the hill since last week and refused to leave.

—According to the report, an estimated 700 Burmese soldiers from Light Infantry battalions Nos. 224 and 17 raided the KNU garrison at Yuaheaylu, about 30 kilometres from the Tha Sae District border last week. The fighting later spilled into Thai territory, with the Burmese later being trapped in between.

KNU sources said that many Burmese soldiers were killed and wounded during the battle.

One Burmese soldier, Sgt Tin Lu, 35, an artillery gunner of the 224th Light Infantry Battalion, was captured alive on Tuesday while retreating from Thai territory to Burma.

A Karen officer said that he will be handed to concerned authorities in Thailand today.

"We will spare his life, but we do not want him to live in our area," said the Karen officer.

Economic, Technical Ties With Indonesia To Grow

*BK1901033592 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
19 Jan 92 p 5*

[Text] Thailand and Indonesia yesterday signed an agreement to set up a ministerial committee to expand relations between the two ASEAN countries, emphasising economic and technical cooperation.

Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin, who initialled the agreement with his Indonesian counterpart Ali Alatas, told reporters two-way trade between the countries was small, worth only about \$300 million.

The trade volume should be greater, he said.

Mr Asa said the committee, which will meet once a year, will help both countries' private sectors to increase contacts and thereby increase the volume of trade and improve cooperation.

Ali Alatas said the joint committee would serve as an umbrella agreement to improve cooperation.

"The potential (for trade and investment) is greater than the reality," said Mr Alatas.

So far, Thai investment in Indonesia totals only 20 projects, while Indonesian investment in Thailand totals 14 projects, including food processing and electronics manufacturing.

Yemen To Sell Oil Products, Buy Agriculture

*BK2201021192 Bangkok THE NATION in English
22 Jan 92 p B10*

[Text] Yemen, seeking to boost economic ties with Thailand, has offered to sell its petroleum products to the kingdom and in return buy more agricultural products.

Fadil Muhsin 'Abdallah, Minister of Supply and Trade of the Republic of Yemen who is visiting Thailand, told THE NATION yesterday that Yemen produces about one-third of a million barrels of oil and petroleum products per day, a figure expected to grow soon.

Yemen supplies 700,000 barrels a day for local consumption and exports two-third of its production to the United States, Europe, South Korea and Japan.

Thailand is expected to be the next important market.

The minister said Yemen plans to be a member of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) when its production level meets OPEC's minimum threshold.

He said many foreign companies—from the United States, Europe, the United Kingdom and Japan—have been engaged in oil exploration, which is Yemen's main investment field at the moment.

'Abdallah also identified other investment areas Yemen is now considering, such as cement factories, fishery industries, building materials, tourism and hotels.

He said the Republic of Yemen has set up an investment authority to liaise with foreign investors.

The Yemeni minister is seeking to develop trade between Thailand and Yemen, especially in rice and agricultural products. Yemen has for long imported rice from Thailand. Last year, it imported about 250,000 tonnes of rice or 80 percent of the domestic demand. It also imported the cereal from China, the United States, India and Pakistan.

He expects the future unified Yemen—after North and South Yemen merge into one single state—to import more rice because of the bigger market size.

Referring to the establishment of a commercial counselor's office in Thailand, the minister said the level of relations between Thailand and Yemen at the present time does not necessitate one. Also, Yemen had its own economic and financial problems which needed solution.

He said a commercial counselor's office could materialize neither this year nor in the near future. He hoped, however, that his trip to Thailand will be the starting point of good relations between the two sides.

The minister, leading a 11-member delegation from both the public and the private sectors of Yemen, is on an unofficial visit here from Jan 21 to 28, at the invitation of the Department of Foreign Trade and Siam Rice Trading Co.

The Yemeni minister said the purpose of the visit is to stabilize bilateral relations between the two countries in the public and private sectors, and to explore the prospect of trade between the two countries.

He said he will provide the necessary information about Yemen to the Thai public and private sectors, to attract Thai investors to his country.

The minister plans to meet Thai Deputy Commerce Minister MR Pridiyathon Thewakun on Jan 23, for a general discussion on the people, economy, and politics of the countries, and to lay the foundations for future economic and trade agreements.

Commerce, Foreign Ministers Leave for Singapore

*BK2201150692 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5
in Thai 1230 GMT 22 Jan 92*

[Text] Commerce Minister Amaret Sila-on left for Singapore to attend a meeting of the ASEAN economic ministers, which will be held prior to the ASEAN Summit. Speaking to reporters at the Don Muang Airport this morning, Amaret said that his trip to Singapore was to prepare for the ASEAN Summit to be held between 27 to 28 January. The main target of Thailand at the meeting is for the conclusion of an agreement on the establishment of the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA). At an initial stage, the ASEAN economic ministers have agreed that the establishment of the AFTA will be completed within 15 years. Tariff rates changed on products traded will vary from 0 to 5 percent, except for unprocessed agricultural products and capital goods. Amaret said that two agreements—a draft framework agreement on the expansion of ASEAN economic cooperation and an agreement which will lead to the establishment of the AFTA—are expected to be concluded during the meeting.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin is also leaving for Singapore this afternoon to attend the meeting of ASEAN economic ministers.

Key Role Expected in Regional Air Traffic Growth

*BK2201010792 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
22 Jan 92 p 19*

[Text] Thailand is expected to make a major contribution to regional air traffic growth as Asia-Pacific emerges as the fastest growing area over the next five years.

An International Air Transport Association (IATA) report said the four countries with the highest expected growth for 1991-1995 were China (14.7 percent), Malaysia (11 percent), Thailand (9.8 percent) and Indonesia (9.3 percent).

The Asia-Pacific region is expected to play a key role in global aviation growth over the next decade, with Southeast Asia, in particular the ASEAN-member countries, proving the biggest growth area.

The growth is based on expected economic and tourism growth figures and the policies of countries such as Japan and Korea to encourage their people to travel abroad.

The number of scheduled airlines passengers have doubled over the last six years and the trend is expected to continue for the next six years.

About 87 million passengers flew on scheduled airlines within Asia-Pacific in 1990, accounting for 31.07 percent of global passenger figures.

Global air traffic growth reached 7.6 percent per year from 1986-1990 with the growth for Asia-Pacific registered as 12.1 percent.

The end of the Gulf war and improving tourism prospects means Asia-Pacific will account for 36 percent of world air passengers by the end of 1995 based on 142.3 million air travellers.

Intra-regional short-haul routes will grow most followed by traffic from Europe to the Far East and Australasia, the latter generating 17.9 million passengers in 1995.

The number of international passengers on scheduled flights is expected to reach 19 million people in 1995, rising to 27 million in 2000.

Traffic between Thailand and countries in Northeast Asia, like Hong Kong, will continue to grow rapidly with about 7.9 million passengers expected in 1995 and 12 million people in 2000.

The most important country pair will be Thailand-Hong Kong with over two million passengers followed by Thailand-Singapore with about 1.5 million passengers.

Commerce Minister, Delegation Promote Trade Ties

*BK1801074692 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network
in English 0000 GMT 18 Jan 92*

[Text] A Thai delegation led by Deputy Commerce Minister M.R. Pridiyathon Thewakun has been on a 12-day visit to Egypt, Spain, Morocco, and Tunisia to

promote trade relations. The Ministry of Commerce reported that the purpose of the visit during 11 to 22 January is also to provide an opportunity for the Thai trade mission to be acquainted with leading personalities in both the public and private sectors of the four countries.

During the visit to Egypt from 12 to 14 January, the deputy commerce minister held talks with Egyptian Economic and Foreign Trade Minister 'Ali Yusri Mustafa. Egypt is deeply impressed by Thailand's success in export performance. Both sides shared the same view that greater importance should be placed on the expansion in trade cooperation at both the government and private sector levels through the joint committee by both countries. They also agreed that Egypt should be the gateway for Thailand to further develop trade ties with Africa and the Middle East and Thailand should be the springboard for Egypt into Southeast Asia.

Official Discusses Industrialization Prospects

*BK2001065892 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network
in English 0000 GMT 20 Jan 92*

[Text] ASEAN member countries support Thailand to spearhead industrialization in Indochina due to her strategic position and readiness in terms of facilities and transportation routes.

Governor of the Industrial Estate Authority of Thailand (IEAT) Somchet Thinaphong says that as a springboard into Indochina, Thailand can see influx of industrial investment in the next five to 10 years. The country serves well as production base for trans-national cooperation that wants to export to Indochina.

IEAT governor says that shortage of infrastructure will be gradually solved as planners and administrators are well aware of the problems and now determined to overcome them.

Infrastructural development will be expedited with greater private participation. Apart from development, the private sector can be invited to manage public utilities in the eastern seaboard industrial area.

Graft Probe Indicts Ex-Commerce Minister Subin

*BK1801151492 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network
in Thai 1200 GMT 18 Jan 92*

[Text] The Assets Investigation Committee today has declared another politician, Subin Pinkhayan, to be unusually rich for having more than 608 million baht [Bt] in unexplained assets. General Sitthi Chirarot, chairman of the committee, reported the results of the committee's investigation to newsmen at the Supreme Command Headquarters. He said the assets include money worth Bt459.2 million paid by groups of rice, coffee, textile, and tapioca exporters in cash or cheques. They were deposited at various bank accounts under several fake names or under the names of other persons.

There is also another Bt148.8 million worth of unexplained assets. In addition, there is evidence of cash having been transferred into other types of property under his own name, that of his wife and children, and under the names of other persons. The committee therefore ruled that the assets of Subin Pinkhayan be confiscated as state property under the 26th announcement of the National Peacekeeping Council and the amendment to the announcement.

Details of the assets are as follows: A promissory note from a financial firm worth Bt1.4 million; equities of four companies worth about Bt206.5 million; 104 plots of land covering about 994 rai bought in the name of companies in several provinces worth Bt256.5 million; several plots of land bought by private companies in Chachoengsao and Chiang Mai Provinces worth Bt48.8 million; and credit certificates worth some Bt94.8 million owed by corporate and private companies.

The committee chairman said that the rest of the above-mentioned assets belonging to Subin Pinkhayan, his wife, and children will no longer be frozen. The committee will make more announcements on the results of the investigation into the wealth of politicians on 22 January.

Music Copyright Violations Expected To Decline

*BK1801044392 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
18 Jan 92 p 20*

[Text] The Thai Magnetic Tape and Record Association is sure copyright violations of foreign music will gradually decline with Thai producers seeking to become local agents for foreign companies.

Association president Charoenchai Wangarayatham said yesterday that many major Thai tape producers had agreed to end illegal taping of music and had signed contracts with some foreign copyright holders to produce and distribute audio cassettes legally in Thailand.

For this reason many tapes of foreign music had now flooded the market, Mr Charoenchai said.

"The association suggested members should apply to become agents of foreign copyright holdings to avoid serious trouble because of tough enforcement of copyrights by the Government," he said.

Although prices of legally-made cassettes would be dearer, selling for about 70 baht, this was affordable.

At the end of last year, the two major audio-cassette producers—Standard Group and Lepso—negotiated with some foreign tape producers to release new foreign music under licence on the local market.

The companies together have almost 80 percent of the taped foreign music market in Thailand.

This meant other music pirates would be under pressure to stop their practice, he said.

In a related development, Commerce Deputy Permanent Secretary Kroekkrai Chiraphaet said he would lead a Thai delegation to Brussels on January 22 and 23 for talks with the European Commissioner on the copyrights issue.

Last July, the International Federation of the Phonographic Industry in Brussels filed a petition urging the European Community to impose higher tariffs or quantity restrictions against Thailand for its failure to protect foreign music recordings.

"The EC will make a final decision on February 20 whether or not to retaliate against Thailand, so the Thai Government has to clarify its position and ask the EC to stop its investigation," he said.

Mr Kroekkrai is confident the EC will withdraw the petition, because the Thai Government has intensified its campaign to crack down on suspected major music pirates with many of them ceasing the practice.

Commentary on Power Bases, Search for Democracy

*BK2001034092 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
20 Jan 92 p 5*

[Article by Likhit Thirawekhin under the column "Afterthought" and entitled "Thailand in Search of a True Democracy"]

[Excerpts] The fact that General Suchinda Khraprayun's statement regarding rumours that he might resign as Commander-in-Chief of the Army was given serious attention by the media testifies to the significance of the army as a political factor. If one probes deep into the nature of Thai politics, it appears that the political process has been a combination of bureaucratic politics and plutocracy. The most appropriate term is bureaucratic-plutocratic democracy.

The evolution of Thai politics has developed from a monarchical state to bureaucratic state and, in the past decade, a plutocratic state. What has not developed is a democratic state.

Last year's coup was a manifestation of the struggle between the military bureaucrats and the plutocrats. And as things develop now, it is apparent that the political process in Thailand will be marked by two power loci—the military/civil bureaucrats and the plutocratic politicians. The former base their legitimacy on national security, political stability and the people's livelihood, the latter on popular sovereignty through election, democracy and the people's well-being. The struggle between these two forces will feature in Thai politics for decades to come. [passage omitted]

In essence, the halfway democracy is a hybrid of a Western political system and that of an indigenous one. It is an attempt to bring about a fusion between the old element—the military and civil bureaucrats—and the new, the middle class which emerged as a result of

economic growth. But in the main, the military bureaucrats still retained much political clout.

But as the open political system had been gaining momentum, the elected members of the House who dominated the Cabinet started to become high-handed and at times even challenged the established military power. This was most prominent during Chatchai Chunchawan's government—business tycoons who spared no time in capitalising on their power for their business gains. The fact that virtually all the political parties were dominated by businessmen who were financiers of their organisation raised the eyebrows of many bureaucrats.

Thus, the bureaucratic policy was given into a plutocracy, not to democratic forces. The majority of the people are powerless as far as policy decisions are concerned. Thai politics is thus dominated by two political forces, the bureaucrats and the plutocrats whose political struggle determine political stability. It is these two forces which are responsible for the viability or the decline of the Thai political system.

What can illustrate the dominant role of the military bureaucrats in relations to the viability of a democracy would run a gamut of events ranging from the October 14, 1973 uprising to the February 23 coup last year. Indeed, October 14 resulted from a conflict within the military, that of Field Marshal Thanom and his colleagues and General Krit Siwara. It was the strife between the two groups which rendered the situation conducive for political manoeuvre. The April 1, 1981, coup staged by the Young Turks also resulted from conflict between General San Chitpatima who allied with the Young Turks, and General Prem Tinsulanon.

More recently, the dismissal of General Athit Kamlang-ek was in essence a coup within the structure to guarantee that the winner would be able to assert control on the outcome of the government to be formed after the general election. The resignation of General Chawalit Yongchaiyut from the deputy premier post and Minister of Defence in the Chatchai Government had left a power vacuum which was initially filled by Gen Chatchai who assumed the defence portfolio. But when the deputy defence minister post was given to General Athit early last year military officers staged the February 23 coup to nip in the bud any possibility of a major reshuffle of the military. Fear of political manoeuvre and vengeance prompted them to take action. The high-handed behaviour of some politicians only added fuel to the fire.

Of late, the rumour that Gen Suchinda would step down as Commander-in-Chief of the army was sensational news. That such a rumour was taken seriously and significance was attached to his statement indicated that a slight move within the military would send shock waves to the political realm. On the other hand, if the plutocrats who wield political power harbour thoughts of streamlining the military bureaucrats by playing one faction against the other, the rift, real or imagined, could spell doom for those incumbent officers.

The political game is engaged by the groups, military bureaucrats and plutocratic politicians. As such, Thai democracy will continue to be a struggle between the established military and to a certain extent the civil bureaucracy, and the plutocrats who seek political power through a democratic process.

But it would seem that the bureaucrats are fighting their last fight, not against the plutocracy per se but against time and the world trend of democratisation and social change. The wheel of history may be slowed down but it cannot be halted. The cases of the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe have borne witness to this.

Vietnam

U.S. Urged To Put 'Early End to MIA Issue'

BK2201044592 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English
1000 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] Recently, ill-intentioned reports on and a set of photos of American personnel missing in the Vietnam war have again been publicized. Following the said photos of Robertson, an American pilot shot down in Vietnam in 1966, and Air Force Captain Lundy, shot down in Laos in 1971, there have been American press reports on American prisoners who were allegedly sent to Kazakhstan and the statement made by former KGB General Oleg Kalugin saying that KGB personnel questioned a number of U.S. prisoners of war in Vietnam from 1975 to 1978. So what is the truth behind these?

First of all we have to confirm that those stories have been perpetrated with ill intention. It is necessary to recall that on 13 January 1992 a spokesman for the U.S. State Department said that the result of an investigation in Kazakhstan from 8-11 January showed that no evidence has been found about the detention of American prisoners of war. Therefore the U.S. State Department held that the investigation had been stopped until new evidence is produced.

As for the statement made by former Soviet General Oleg Kalugin, Vietnam has affirmed that this is sheer ill-intentioned fabrication. On 20 January the Vietnam Office for the Search for U.S. Citizens Missing in Action, MIA, sent a note to the U.S. MIA office in Hanoi saying that the results of the investigations show that there was no interrogation of American prisoners of war by KGB personnel after the U.S. troop withdrawal in 1973 and after the end of the war in 1975.

The investigation showed that there was only one contact between KGB personnel and an American prisoner of war by the name of Eugene Weaver. Weaver was captured by Vietnam in the city of Hue on 31 January 1968. Upon knowing that Weaver is a Russian-born American, the Soviet side asked to meet him and the request was accepted by Vietnam. In January 1973 the

KGB officer Oleg Nechiporenko met Weaver only once because of the latter's refusal of another contact. In March 1973 the Vietnamese side returned Mr Weaver to the U.S. side. This should not be used as a pretext for the fabricated story about personnel interrogating American prisoners of war up to the end of the war.

The American TIME magazine remarked that these ridiculous stories contribute to the MIA industry whose [word indistinct] are profiting through cooked up stories. This shows that some circles in the United States continue their outmoded policy, pretexting the MIA issue to hinder the process of normalizing Vietnam-U.S. relations and sabotaging the friendship between the two peoples.

For its part Vietnam considers MIA merely as humanitarian issue and have unilaterally solved the issue without imposing any conditions on the U.S. side. Following the return of all American prisoners of war, the Vietnamese side has handed over to the U.S. side 458 sets of remains and information concerning 59 cases of American personnel whose death was confirmed. Since 1987, joint Vietnamese-U.S. searches have brought about practical results.

Therefore the U.S. Government and Congress should stop using the MIA issue for political purposes and an obstruct to the process of normalizing relations between the two countries. What they should do is make the American people understand the truth about the MIA issue and be vigilant of allegations. They should take measures to prevent and punish those who make profit of the sufferings of American families. The best way for the U.S. is to promote the process of normalizing relations and to put an early end to the MIA issue. This will surely meet the aspirations and interest of the peoples of both countries.

Japanese Mission Meets Leaders, Discusses Aid

*BK1801141792 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English
1000 GMT 16 Jan 92*

[Text] A Japanese Government mission arrived in Hanoi Tuesday for talks on resuming overseas development aid to Vietnam. The mission, led by Mr. Takakawakami, director of the Foreign Ministry's Economic Cooperation Bureau, held talks on assigned aid with Deputy Foreign Minister Vu Khoan. On Wednesday he met with Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam and First Vice Premier Phan Van Khai. The nine-member delegation, which includes economic aid experts, came from Ho Chi Minh City, where it had toured Saigon Harbor and visited several Japanese-built facilities.

Firm To Join Offshore Oil Search

*BK2101055492 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English
1000 GMT 18 Jan 92*

[Text] A subsidiary of Idemitsu Kosan Company has reached broad agreement with the Vietnamese Government to jointly carry out oil exploration off Vietnam's

northern coast. KYODO said the two parties hope to finalize the agreement by summer and actually launch the project within a year.

Aid Mission Concludes Visit

*BK1801152592 Hanoi VNA in English 1349 GMT
18 Jan 92*

[Text] Hanoi VNA January 18—The Japanese Government economic delegation, which arrived here on January 14 to discuss the resumption of the Vietnamese-Japanese economic cooperation, left here today concluding its Vietnam visit.

The delegation, led by by Mr. Takakawakami, director of the Economic Cooperation Department of the Foreign Ministry, comprised of officials of the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of International Trade and Industry, the Economic Planning Agency and various economic cooperation organisations.

While here, the delegation was cordially received by Vice Premier Phan Van Khai on January 15, at which the Japanese head delegate conveyed to his host a letter from Japanese Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe expressing Japan's high appreciation of Vietnam's open-door policy and the former's willingness to push up its economic cooperation with Vietnam. Mr. Phan Van Khai welcomed his guests' visit and stressed the importance of the economic cooperation and friendship between the two countries. The two sides expressed their belief that those relations would be further strengthened in the coming period. Vice Premier Phan Van Khai asked the general director to convey his reply letter and best greetings to the Japanese deputy prime minister.

The delegation called on Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam and handed over to him a letter from the Japanese Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe. It also had working sessions with concerned offices of Vietnam.

Foreign Minister To Visit Phnom Penh 24 Jan

*BK2201034792 Hong Kong AFP in English 0328 GMT
22 Jan 92*

[Text] Hanoi, Jan 22 (AFP)—Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam will arrive in Cambodia on Friday for a three-day official visit, a Cambodian diplomatic source here said Wednesday.

This will be the first visit by a Vietnamese official since the signing of the Cambodia peace accords in Paris in October.

Hanoi was the main backer of the regime installed in power after the invasion of Cambodia by Vietnamese troops in December 1978. Vietnam officially declared the withdrawal of all its soldiers in September 1989.

Cam's trip, originally scheduled for December, was delayed after an attack on the Khmer Rouge's Phnom

Penh residence November 27, during which the radical Marxist faction's leaders, Khieu Samphan and Son Sen, narrowly escaped being lynched by an angry mob.

The two leaders are the Khmer Rouge's representatives on the Supreme National Council, a reconciliation body headed by Prince Norodom Sihanouk representing Cambodia's sovereignty until elections under U.N. supervision.

Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen also postponed a visit to Phnom Penh because of the attack, sparked by Cambodian bitterness over the more than one million deaths during the Khmer Rouge's four-year rule before Vietnam invaded.

China was the main backer of the Khmer Rouge, the most powerful faction in a guerrilla alliance that fought to overthrow the Vietnam-installed government during Cambodia's 13-year civil war.

The Chinese minister will now make his trip in early February, according to diplomatic sources here.

German State Minister Visits

*BK1801145892 Hanoi VNA in English 1345 GMT
18 Jan 92*

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan. 18—The minister of state of the German Foreign Ministry, Mrs. Ursula Seiler Albring, visited Vietnam from Jan. 14-18, 1992.

While in Vietnam, the German minister paid tribute to the late President Ho Chi Minh at his mausoleum and was received by first vice-chairman of the Vietnamese Council of Ministers Phan Van Khai. She had working sessions with Nguyen Manh Cam, foreign minister, Dau Ngoc Xuan, chairman of the State Committee for Cooperation and Investment, and Tran Dinh Hoan, minister of labour, war invalids and social affairs, and toured a number of cultural establishments in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City.

During those meetings, the Vietnamese officials informed the German guests of Vietnam's initial but very important achievements recorded in the renovation process and its foreign policy of independence, sovereignty and diversified foreign relations in the new stage.

The two sides exchanged views on international matters of common concern and discussed measures to promote the Vietnam-F.R.G. relations in the fields of economy, commerce, culture, science and technology, investment and development cooperation.

The German minister of state reaffirmed her government's support for Vietnam's renovation process, the development of relations between Vietnam and the European community and the normalization of relations between Vietnam and international financial and monetary organizations.

The two sides expressed satisfaction at the development of the Vietnam-Germany relations and renewed the desire to enhance their friendship and cooperation in the interests of the two peoples, of peace, stability and cooperation in Southeast Asia.

British Oil Firm Continues Investment

*BK1901070692 Hanoi VNA in English 0630 GMT
19 Jan 92*

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan 18—In the past three years, the BP Exploration Corporation of Britain has conducted 6,000 kilometres of seismic survey and drilled two wells at lots 117, 118 and 119 off the coast of Quang Nam-Da Nang in central Vietnam at a total cost of USD 45 million.

BP won a concession in 1989 with an investment capital of USD 53 million one hundred per cent owned by itself.

Michael A. Yeldham, executive chief of BP in Vietnam, disclosed that BP was recently joined by Statoil Company of Norway in the oil prospection project under the contract signed with Petro Vietnam. The two corporations plan to spend USD 60 million on conducting 4,000 kilometres of seismic survey and drilling two wells at a depth of 800 metres off Quang Nam-Da Nang coast. Both BP and Statoil are well experienced in deep-sea drilling.

Amity Group Sends Greetings to PRC Counterpart

*BK1801141992 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English
1000 GMT 16 Jan 92*

[Text] The Vietnam-China Friendship Society has just sent a message of greetings to the China-Vietnam Friendship Society on the 42d anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries. The message says the visit to China by Vietnamese Party General Secretary Do Muoi and Chairman of the Council of Ministers Vo Van Kiet has opened a new stage in the Sino-Vietnamese relations. The message stresses: The Vietnamese people need your efforts through the Chinese people to normalize bilateral relations.

Diplomatic Relations Established With Uzbekistan

*BK1901151892 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network
in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 19 Jan 92*

[Text] On 17 January in Tashkent, capital of Uzbekistan, Comrade Nguyen Di Nien, deputy foreign minister and special envoy of the chairman of the SRV Council of Ministers, and Mr. Abdurazakov, foreign minister of Uzbekistan, signed a joint communique on the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Nguyen Dy Nien Meets Uzbek Leaders*BK1901161792 Hanoi VNA in English 1512 GMT
19 Jan 92*

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan. 19—Nguyen Dy Nien deputy foreign minister, special envoy of the Vietnamese chairman of the Council of Ministers, visited the Republic of Uzbekistan on January 16-17. He was accompanied by Ho Huan Nghiem, vice chairman of the State Planning Committee, and Le Kim Lang, deputy minister of trade and tourism.

Nguyen Dy Nien was received by Premier A. Multov. He conveyed premier Vo Van Kiet's letter inviting President I. Karimov and Premier Mulatov to visit Vietnam.

Nguyen Dy Nien had working sessions with a delegation of the Uzbekistan Government during which he expressed the wish to maintain and further develop the existing friendship and multi-faceted cooperation with the Republic of Uzbekistan.

In the immediate future Uzbekistan agreed to exchange cotton for rice, meat and tea of Vietnam. A delegation of the Uzbekistan government led by the minister of agriculture is expected to visit Vietnam in February 1992 to finalize bilateral trade agreements.

A joint communique on the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries was signed on Jan. 17 by Nguyen Dy Nien and foreign minister W. Abdurazakov.

Reportage on Vo Van Kiet's Malaysian Visit**Meets Sultan Azlan Shah***BK2001160392 Hanoi VNA in English 1432 GMT
20 Jan 92*

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan. 20—Chairman of the Council of Ministers Vo Van Kiet and his wife arrived in Kuala Lumpur this morning, beginning a Malaysia official visit at the invitation of Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Mahathir Mohamad.

This is the second high-level delegation of Vietnam to have visited Malaysia since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries in 1973. The first visit was made by Premier Pham Van Dong on October 12-16, 1978.

Right after their arrival, Chairman Vo Van Kiet and his wife was received in audience by Sultan Azlan Shah and the queen of Malaysia.

Present at the audience, on the Vietnam side, were Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam and Ambassador Cao Dac Hung, on the host side were Minister of Foreign Affairs Datuk Abdullah and Malaysian Ambassador to Vietnam Parameswaran.

Sultan Azlan Shah described Chairman Vo Van Kiet's visit as a contribution to strengthening the understanding among the nations and peace, friendship, stability and cooperation in the region.

Chairman Vo Van Kiet expressed his pleasure over the new step of development in the Vietnamese-Malaysian relations marked by this visit. He affirmed that, together with Malaysia, Vietnam will make active contributions to building Southeast Asia a region of peace, friendship, stability and development.

The Vietnamese chairman wished Sultan and the Queen good health and happiness, and the Malaysian people prosperity.

Prime Minister, Chairman Speak*BK2101072792 Hanoi VNA in English 0625 GMT
21 Jan 92*

[Quotation marks as received]

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan.21—Malaysia is greatly interested in the positive changes in Vietnam as a result of the renovation policy since 1986, and at the same time affirms that in its capacity as a close friend and neighbour of Vietnam, it is ready to cooperate with Vietnam in the areas where it has experience and means.

Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad stressed this point at a grand banquet given in Kuala Lumpur in the evening of Jan. 20 in honour of the Vietnamese Government delegation led by Chairman of the Council of Ministers Vo Van Kiet. The Malaysian prime minister continued: The vexing Cambodia issue now seems resolved. Once the Cambodia issue is settled, the countries in the region may direct their attention and potentials to more constructive purposes.

We expect that from now on Vietnam and the other Indochinese countries will be able to move more quickly and in such a context, the region will become one of more dynamic development and will play a more considerable role in the world economy...

Great changes are taking place in the world. New forms of international and regional cooperation are taking shape. Nevertheless, an inequalities and serious differences in the international economic and trade system. [sentence as received]

Moreover, a series of new conditions have been imposed to hold back the development of the developing countries. In such a situation, the developing countries will necessarily have to cooperate even more closely to face the common challenges. The countries in the region should try to coordinate actions to expand their economic relations".

In his speech of reply, Chairman Vo Van Kiet said:

"In the past year, the relations in all aspects between our two countries have made new advances of great significance. There have been many contacts between different economic branches of the two countries. Economic, commercial and cultural exchanges have begun, and more importantly, the two countries have better understood each other. We hope to take this opportunity to exchange views with you and other Malaysian leaders on new measures to accelerate and further expand the friendship and very promising multiform cooperation between our two countries..."

Chairman Vo Van Kiet welcomed the initiative of the Malaysian prime minister to expand ASEAN's cooperation with a number of countries in the region.

He said:

With the signing of the Paris agreement on an overall political solution to the Cambodia issue, the prolonged conflict around this problem has ended, the trend of cooperation in the region has favourable conditions to develop. [sentence as received]

We highly value your initiative to expand ASEAN's cooperation with a number of the countries in the region. During this visit, I will have the opportunity to discuss with you on the cooperation among the countries in the region, and between our two countries, with a view to help in the transformation of Southeast Asia into a region of peace, stability, cooperation and development".

Joint Agreement Signed

BK2101151692 Hanoi VNA in English 1442 GMT
21 Jan 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan. 21—An agreement on investment protection between Vietnam and Malaysia was signed in Kuala Lumpur this afternoon by Vietnamese Chairman of the State Commission for Cooperation and Investment Dau Ngoc Xuan and Malaysian Minister of Trade and Industry Mrs. Dato Seri Rafidah Aziz.

The agreement is aimed to broaden the cooperation between the two countries in many fields and create favorable conditions for Malaysian businessmen who are interested in investment in Vietnam.

Visits New Settlement

BK2201064992 Hanoi VNA in English 0545 GMT
22 Jan 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan. 22—Chairman of the Council of Ministers of Vietnam Vo Van Kiet, now on a visit in Malaysia, yesterday paid a visit to the Federal Land Development Authority (FELDA) new settlement, 250 km northwest of Kuala Lumpur.

The chairman was accompanied by Vice Foreign Minister Vu Khoan, deputy head of the Council of Ministers' Office Vu Dinh Thuan, and Ambassador to Malaysia Cao Dac Hung. On the host side were Minister of

Foreign Affairs Datuk Abdullad bin Haji Ahmad Badawi and Malaysian Ambassador to Vietnam N. Parameswaran.

The delegation was warmly welcomed by Mr. Fadzil, director of FELDA, and large crowds of the population in the new settlement.

The FELDA settlement, situated in Negri Sembilan state, was set up in 1966 and comprises two main economic sectors: household and state farm. By early 1992, the household economic sector had put 560,000 ha under palm, rubber, cacao...and the state farms had covered 331,000 ha with palm and rubber.

Chairman Vo Van Kiet visited two peasant families in field Palong 8 and a rubber and a palm oil factories.

The vietnamese leader said Malaysia's success in building FELDA is a precious lesson for Vietnam.

Meanwhile, the accompanying Vietnamese officials discussed with their Malaysian counterparts measures to carry out the agreements reached at the talks.

Activities Reported

BK2201134492 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English
1000 GMT 22 Jan 92

[Text] As we reported earlier, Vietnamese Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet on 20 January headed a high-level delegation to Kuala Lumpur, starting an official visit to Malaysia. In this program, our radio commentator reports on the prime minister's activities.

Upon arrival in Malaysia, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet and his wife were received in audience by Sultan Azlan Shah and the Queen of Malaysia. Later, talks were held in Kuala Lumpur between the visiting prime minister and his Malaysian counterpart on issues of bilateral relations as well as regional and international issues of common concern.

On the morning of 20 January, the Vietnamese government leader left Kuala Lumpur on a military plane to visit the (Kasa) new economic zone about 250 kilometers northwest of the Malaysian capital where he was given a warm welcome by the local people.

Upon arrival at (Kasa), the prime minister of Vietnam visited the families of two Malaysian peasants. He inquired after the families' lives, production, and particularly, household occupations, the questions of consumption of products and the relationship between the families and state enterprises.

In his talk with the local leaders, Mr. Kiet was interested in the experiences drawn by Malaysians on determining the role of the state in capital investment, solving the question on infrastructures, public utilities, people's lives, and the results of production and businesses of factories and farms. The Vietnamese prime minister expressed high appreciation at Malaysia's development policy concerning land and settlement. He also expressed

admiration at the industry and creative spirit of the Malaysian people in turning Malaysia from a jungle country and roadless into a big economic zone specializing in growing cash crops with high economic value. He said: Malaysia's success in the building of the new economic zone of (Kasa) is a valuable lesson for Vietnam, which has many things in common with Malaysia regarding environmental conditions as well as the policy on sedentary farming.

Meanwhile, ministers and vice ministers members of the Vietnamese delegation had met with their Malaysian counterparts to discuss how best to implement the agreement reached at the talks between the two government leaders.

The wife of Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet, for her part, visited the National University and its department for chemistry.

On 21 January, Prime Minister Kiet and his wife called at the Vietnamese embassy where he urged its staff to do their best to contribute to expanding the Malaysia-Vietnam friendship and cooperation which have many new factors for further development.

On the same day, an agreement on investment guarantee was signed in Kuala Lumpur by Vietnam State Committee for Cooperation and Investment Chairman Dau Ngoc Xuan and Malaysian Minister of Trade and Industry Rafidah Aziz. It will help expand bilateral cooperation to many fields and will be of special interest to Malaysian businesses seeking to invest in Vietnam.

Further on Vo Van Kiet's Activities

*BK2201155592 Hanoi VNA in English 1541 GMT
22 Jan 92*

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan.22—Vietnamese Chairman Vo Van Kiet of the Council of Ministers this morning toured the Proton car factory on the south of Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The factory, the biggest of its kind in Malaysia, built in 1983 and put into operation two years later, can now turn out 70 percent of spareparts for three-seat cars. Last year, it manufactured 100,000 cars including 40,000 for export to the Great Britain.

In the afternoon, Chairman Vo Van Kiet and his wife visited the National Oil and Gas Company (Petronas), the third biggest Malaysian oil company which is entering into a joint venture with Vietnam in oil and gas exploration and exploitation on Vietnam's continental shelf.

Almost one year ago, Vo Van Kiet, who was then vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers, already visited Petronas to learn its experience in building the oil industry. This time, Petronas Director General Tan Sri O. Azizan briefed Chairman Vo Van Kiet and other vietnamese guests on his company's experiences in defining the state role, especially the role of the prime

minister, in mapping out strategy and policies to develop the oil and gas industry, as well as on conditions to sign contracts with private sector on oil exploitation and processing and the marketing of oil products, etc.

The chairman said that Petronas's experiences would be very useful for Vietnam's young oil and gas industry. He expressed his wish for the further development of the cooperation between the two countries in this field.

The Vietnamese leader also called on the Ministry of Finance and exchanged with its leading officials experiences in establishing and managing the national finance in the market mechanism. He met with officials of the Bumiputra Bank and Renong Group, and briefed the Malaysian officials on Vietnam's policy to encourage foreign investment as well as its favourable social and political conditions for foreign investment in Vietnam and the fields in which Malaysian businessmen can invest. For their part, the Malaysian officials expressed their wish to share their experience with Vietnamese partners and their hope that the chairman's visit would usher in a new period for the Malaysia-Vietnam cooperation.

Hanoi Hails Success of Visit

*BK2301050992 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network
in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 22 Jan 92*

[Station commentary: "Close Friendship Between Vietnam and Malaysia"]

[Text] The official friendship visit to Malaysia by SRV Council of Ministers Chairman Vo Van Kiet at the invitation of Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad was crowned with fine success. Close friendship between the two countries was once again manifested through the warm welcome extended by the Malaysian Government to Chairman Vo Van Kiet and his entourage upon their arrival at the Kuala Lumpur Airport.

Prime Minister Mahathir and his wife held a solemn ceremony to welcome Chairman Vo Van Kiet at Kuala Lumpur Square. Sultan Azlan Shah and the Queen of Malaysia granted an audience to Chairman Vo Van Kiet during which the sultan said that the visit to Malaysia by the SRV Council of Ministers is a good sign in the relations between the two countries.

The splendid success of Chairman Vo Van Kiet's official friendship visit to Malaysia was also manifested by the signing of a series of important agreements aimed at developing economic relations and cooperation in other fields between the two countries, including the agreement on protection and promotion of investment. Both sides also decided to further expand cooperation reached in March 1990 in the fields of maritime navigation, agriculture, exploitation of mineral resources, civil aviation, finance, banking, and training of cadres. Both sides also agreed to cooperate in the cultural, education, construction, and rural development domains.

It is well-known that Malaysia and Vietnam have many similar features. Malaysia, like Vietnam, has a 4,000-year history and has experienced aggression and domination by various imperialist forces. It was not until August 1957 that Malaysia regained its independence. Malaysia has abundant natural resources. Its land is fertile; its climate is favorable for agricultural development; and its underground land is full of valuable resources such as oil, natural gas, and nonferrous metal. During almost 30 years of concentrating efforts to build the country, Malaysia has made remarkable achievements. It is ranked one of the leading countries in the world in term of economic growth and in exporting natural rubber, tin, banana, and palm oil. Malaysia also exploits and exports a large volume of crude oil. The country's per capita income is \$2,100. The Malaysian Government has recently formulated an economic development plan for the next 30 years with an estimated increase of gross production output by seven percent annually. This is a plan aimed not only at making Malaysia a new industrial country but also at increasing the nation's gross production output by two-fold in the year 2000 and by eight-fold by the year 2020—by which time Malaysia would become a fully developed country.

To implement this plan, the Malaysian Government has formulated a series of major policies, including the policy to accelerate the process of industrialization, attract more foreign investments, and curb inflation.

What impressed us the most is that Malaysia is sincere in sharing with Vietnam its experiences in building the country. Prime Minister Mahathir, in his welcoming speech to Chairman Vo Van Kiet, said that the Malaysian Government highly appraises progress made by Vietnam in its renovation undertaking that began in 1986. The Malaysian prime minister asserted that as a friend and neighboring country to Vietnam, Malaysia is ready to cooperate with Vietnam in the fields in which it has experience and facilities. Indeed, Malaysia has a farsighted vision. It has taken many effective measures to protect its national independence and develop the economy. Malaysia adheres to the principles of maintaining true independence, refraining from exerting pressure in economic relations, advocating building economic strength and friendship with countries in the region to counter economic pressure from outsiders. For this reason, Malaysia welcomes and totally supports Vietnam's decision to join the 1976 Bali Treaty of Amity and Cooperation as well as Vietnam's efforts to hold talks with ASEAN member countries. Malaysia has also proposed the establishment of an East Asian Economic Forum in the form of a consultative mechanism to allow countries in Eastern Asia to discuss and exchange views on economic and trade issues related to countries in the region and the world. Prime Minister Mahathir told Chairman Vo Van Kiet that Malaysia hopes and is convinced that after the signing of the Cambodian peace accord, Vietnam and other Indochinese countries will develop very quickly. In this context, the Southeast Asian region will develop more actively and will play a better role in the world economy.

The Vietnamese people highly appraise Malaysia's sincere attitude toward Vietnam and welcome its initiative in establishing the East Asia Economic Forum, considering this a proposal contributing to the trend of negotiations between countries in the region.

The splendid success of the official friendship visit to Malaysia by Chairman Vo Van Kiet has created a very favorable condition for developing the multifaceted cooperation between the two countries for the interests of each country and the international community, especially in the current trend of cooperation and development.

Accord With Malaysia on Spratly Islands Reported

*BK2301014592 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network
in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 22 Jan 92*

[Text] Malaysian Foreign Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi was quoted by Reuters as saying on 21 January that Vietnam and Malaysia have agreed to jointly develop the disputed islands in the southern part of the Eastern Sea. He told reporters after an official meeting with Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam that it is better to work together to gain fruitful results.

Agreement on Civil Aviation Signed With Singapore

*BK2101135692 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network
in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 15 Jan 92*

[Text] According Singapore sources, Singapore and Vietnam have signed an agreement on civil aviation between the two countries.

Under this agreement, Singapore Airlines will begin flights to Ho Chi Minh City in February and Hanoi in May, while Air Vietnam will begin flights to Singapore in February.

Increase in Relations Discussed

*BK1801031792 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
18 Jan 92 p 4*

[Article by Jacques Bekaert under the rubric "Eye on Indochina," entitled "Singapore a Role Model for Hanoi?"]

[Text] Singapore—Would you buy a used car from a Singaporean car dealer? Well, the Vietnamese probably will. This island state has sold second-hand cars to Sri Lanka, Thailand, Indonesia, and even Australia. At the end of last year, a delegation of used car dealers from Singapore went to Hanoi to discuss trade possibilities.

In theory, Vietnam still bans import of used cars, although the ban is enforced with various degrees of success. But the ban should be lifted very soon and Singaporean used car dealers are now considering how much it would cost to change their cars to left hand drive. (In Vietnam one drives on the right side of the

road). Should the operation be too expensive, the Singaporeans may go to other countries, like Japan, to find used cars and re-export them to Vietnam.

Relations between Vietnam and the republic of Singapore are now so good that the small island is probably replacing Japan as the main trade partner of Hanoi.

Figures published by the Singapore BUSINESS TIMES a few days ago, based largely on official Vietnamese and Singaporean sources, show that in 1985, in the middle of the war in Cambodia, the volume of trade between Vietnam and Singapore was a low US\$59.90 million, compared with US\$174.26 million between Vietnam and Japan. In 1989, the figures rose to US\$324.9 million and US\$366.59 million, respectively. No official statistics for 1990 are available, but trade between Vietnam and Singapore was expected to reach US\$812 million that year, compared with US\$794 million between Vietnam and Japan.

One Vietnamese official told the BUSINESS TIMES that the location of Singapore makes it more convenient for ships in Ho Chi Minh City to sail to the island republic than to Haiphong. More efficient too, one can imagine. Officials from the Singapore Trade Development Board say that the volume of trade with Vietnam could be well over US\$1 billion in 1991.

The Singapore Press is full of stories about Vietnam these days and Singaporean journalists are finally allowed to visit a country that once symbolised everything that went wrong with communism.

"Vietnam has become much more important to us," said a senior Singaporean official. "And from now on we shall certainly pay a lot of attention to what is happening in Hanoi." Singapore will probably open an embassy in Hanoi by the end of the year, and Singapore International Airlines [SIA] is planning to launch its first flight to Ho Chi Minh City by February 28.

A governmental level agreement was signed recently between the two countries allowing SIA to operate up to six flights a week using Airbus A310 or even Boeing 747. The agreement covers both Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi. There will be four flights a week to Ho Chi Minh City. In early May, SIA will start flying twice a week to Hanoi. A weekly all-cargo service is also planned between Singapore and Ho Chi Minh City, starting in March.

Vietnam Airlines will also launch its own regular services to Singapore in February. Right now only charter planes run by Singaporean Cassidy Trading, using Vietnam Airline planes, are flying between the two countries. The deputy managing director of SIA told the BUSINESS TIMES that there was a high degree of interest in Vietnam "both commercially and as a tourist destination."

During the war in Cambodia, Singapore voiced strong and consistent opposition to the presence of Vietnamese troops in Cambodia. Singapore offered important help to the Cambodian non-communist resistance, including funds and weapons. Why then the sudden change of relations?

"The war in Cambodia is over," a senior Singaporean official told us. "Today we have absolutely no reason to oppose Vietnam. We want to see a developing Vietnam. We wish Vietnam all the best."

Senior Vietnamese officials have told Singaporean leaders they would like to use Singapore as a model of development. Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet, during an official visit to the island state last year, was very impressed with Singapore's economic development and political stability. The Vietnamese leadership is increasingly aware that it must develop the country fast to please the population, and allow the communist party to run the country for a few more years.

Mr Kiet has approached former Singaporean prime minister Lee Kwan Yew and asked him to serve as Vietnam's special adviser. Though Mr Lee was a bit surprised when the Vietnamese recently leaked the information, he told the Vietnamese he was not opposed to the idea but would like to take more time to study the offer.

Today's relations between Vietnam and Singapore are probably the best Hanoi has ever had with any ASEAN countries. "Vietnam appreciates the fact that we have always been very frank, very straightforward with them. We do not play games, our policies are always very clear," one Singaporean source said. "If we have a problem with Vietnam we are very open about it. When we want to help, we are also very clear about it." And, added another source, "the Vietnamese leadership appreciates very much the fact that in Singapore there is little or no corruption."

Recently several Vietnamese leaders admitted that corruption within the communist party could threaten its future, as people are losing confidence in the party.

Country To Chair Rural Development Council

*BK1801072892 Hanoi VNA in English 0629 GMT
18 Jan 92*

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan.18—Vietnam has been elected chairman of the managing council of the Centre for Integrated Rural Development in Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) at its meeting recently held in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

The meeting reviewed the recent activities of the centre and put forward its new orientation and tasks.

The Vietnamese delegation to the meeting was led by Prof. Dr. Vu Tuyen Hoang, vice minister of agriculture and food industry.

